

Sunday, July 9, 2017 - "Revival (Nehemiah 8)" - Gerald Coleman

Key Passages: Nehemiah 7-9 with a focus on Ch.8

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- In Nehemiah 6 they finish the wall
  - But it's not enough
  - Nehemiah wanted to bring the people back
  - The key to reviving a city is to revive it's people
  - God's story with his people was: If you obey me and follow my commands, I will bless you BUT if you don't you will be exiled
- As Nehemiah rebuilds the wall, Ezra rebuilds the temple (see the book of Ezra)
  - Ezra finds the law of God
  - People didn't have a personal copy of the Word of God (they didn't have the commands of God)
- Ezra reads the Book of the Law and the people again hear the Word of God
  - It is His will for them
  - As they hear, they realize how far they had gotten from what the Lord had commanded
  - Sometimes little by little we can get further and further from what the Lord has commanded
- Revival doesn't happen without Revelation
  - Revelation is truth of God to our logic and minds BUT ALSO to the depths of our hearts
  - General Revelation = Seeing created things and the way they tell the story of a Creator
  - Special Revelation = When God reveals himself (what He is like, what we should do, and ultimately JESUS and his life...WORD became flesh)
- We have to come back to the Word of God...to do the WILL of God
  - Not just knowing ABOUT Him, but Knowing Him personally and intimately
  - Revelation brings sorrow AND joy
- The people heard the word and knew they had to CHANGE (Romans 12:1-1)
- Why does it matter for us?
  - We gather to hear the Word of God
  - We fight to transform and not to conform
- To be revived we need revelation
  - So many things try to cloud our vision (vision = prophetic revelation)
  - We gather to hear vision → which leads to repentance
- Feast of Sukko (of tabernacles)
  - This feast was supposed to be happening during the time that Ezra read the law
  - It called people to remember their time in the wilderness
  - A time when they were dependent on God (it had not been celebrated since Joshua...a long time)
  - It was to help them remember WHO THEY WERE
- They fasted and put on sackcloth
  - They confessed their sins and the sins of their fathers
  - God "pricked" their hearts and REVELATION → REPENTANCE
- "By our decisions we sow a blessing or a curse to the next generation"
- The Word of God is Revelation which leads us to repentance, to confession and ultimately REVIVAL

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. When was a time when revelation sparked revival in your life or ministry?
2. How has revelation caused to change? In your heart? In your mind? (Romans 12:1-2)
3. When was a time when you could see a number of small decisions lead you further & further from the will of God?
4. If you're comfortable sharing, when was a time when revelation lead to repentance and/or confession?
5. How are you doing in not just know ABOUT God, but truly knowing him personally/intimately?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: Proverbs 5 Tues: Proverbs 6 Wed: Proverbs 7 Thurs: Proverbs 8 Fri: Proverbs 9**

**\*\*5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**