

"Vision: A People Longing for God"
Nehemiah 8-10
Sunday, January 22, 2012

INTRODUCTION

- God establishing a people for Himself
- God's character and work are inseparable
- God's demand for holiness among His covenant people is intact
 - **Galatians 3:16**
 - **Romans 3:21-26**

Centrality of God's Word (8:1–10:39)

- A. The law is read (**8:1–8**)
 1. Proclamation
 2. A Gathering
 - a) For all to hear
 - b) In a place of accessibility (i.e. not the temple)
 3. With Expectancy
 4. Using Faithful men
- 5. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
 - a) Continue faithful expository preaching
 - b) Unabashedly start churches that are committed to expository preaching
 - c) Establish a culture where the Word proclaimed & applied are inseparable when speaking of biblical faithfulness in our fellowship
 - d) Raise up men to preach
- B. Initial response: Mourning to Joy (**8:9–12**)
 1. Interpretation
 2. Mourning to Joy

- 3. Call to separation - be holy
- 4. Call to strength
- 5. Call to be community (expectation that the response was to carry over to homes)
- 6. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
 - a) Allow the Scriptures to produce holistic response (encourage this, not surrendering to fear)
 - b) Emphasize the sufficiency of Scripture for complete application
 - c) Every single household equipped with tools to apply the Word in their homes
- C. Deliberate response: Feast of Booths (**8:13–18**)
 1. Application
 2. Heads of households (leaders) seek greater understanding (intent)
 - a) **Ezra 10:9–17**
 - b) Implications for extended households
 3. Reclaiming the Feast of Booths
 - a) Connection to the Exodus generation
 - b) Continuation of the Covenant people
 4. Obedience produces lasting joy
- 5. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
 - a) See
 - b) Simplify
 - c) Strengthen
- D. Lasting response: Confession & Repentance (**9:1–38**)
 1. Preparation (**vv.1–5**)
 - a) Perseverance
 - b) Gathering

- c) With expectation (fasting)
 - d) Before the Word
2. Prayerful Response (**vv.6-38**)
 - a) Acknowledgement of God's nature and work
 - b) Agreement of personal condition (Feast of Booths was no mere ceremony...a reminder)
 - c) Elder-led prayer and worship
 - d) Repentance (individually and corporately)
 3. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
 - a) Emphasize the importance of congregational prayer
 - b) Establish regular times of elder-led prayer & worship
 - c) Encourage confession because all of our sin has been carried away in Christ
- E. Renewed Commitment of the People (**10:1-39**)
1. The Community is the people of God (**vv.1-28**)
 - a) Individuals & Family groups
 - b) Personal responsibility
 - c) Corporate responsibility
 2. The Community in Covenant Fellowship (**vv.29-39**)
 - a) Word-centered
 - b) Community as Kingdom
 3. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
 - a) When we gather, we must...
 - (1) Remember...
 - (2) Expect...
 - (3) Renew...
 - b) **1 Peter 1:13-21**