

So, You Want a Revival?
Nehemiah 8:1-12

Review:

1. Revival always includes a deeper desire to hear and understand the Word of God
2. Revival always brings a greater understanding of our sin and our need for confession and repentance
3. Revival always springs from a greater grasp of the grace of God, which saves even the most undeserving of sinners.

Reflect:

1. Where does Bible study come on your own list of priorities? Pray for God's grace to give you more of a desire for His Word.
2. What personal sins has your study of the Bible brought to your attention? Pray for God's grace to rid you of those habits.
3. How has meditating on God's grace helped you avoid "do-it-yourself" Christianity?

Go Further: Read Nehemiah 12:47-13:31

1. In the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah, what did the Israelites give to the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Levites?
2. What did the Levites give to the sons of Aaron, the priests?
3. According to 13:1, what sorts of people were excluded from the assembly of God?
4. According to 13:3, what did the people do when they heard about this law?
5. According to 13:4-5, where did Eliashib the priest live? Since Tobiah was an Ammonite (see 2:19), why was Eliashib's kinship with him a problem?
6. What were Tobiah's rooms originally intended for? What would his living there prevent from happening?
7. According to 13:6, why did Nehemiah allow Tobiah to live in the Temple?
8. According to 13:8, what did Nehemiah do when he found out about Tobiah's living arrangements?
9. To what use did Nehemiah then dedicate Tobiah's rooms?
10. According to 13:10, what did Nehemiah discover was not being done?
11. According to 13:11, what two things did Nehemiah do to correct this problem?
12. How did the people of Judah react to Nehemiah's correction?
13. According to 13:13, whom did Nehemiah appoint to make sure this problem did not reoccur?
14. According to 13:15, what problem did Nehemiah discover? What did he do about it?
15. According to 13:16, what were the men of Tyre doing?
16. According to 13:17-18, why did Nehemiah think this was such a problem?
17. According to 13:19, how did Nehemiah solve the problem?
18. According to 13:23-24, what problem did Nehemiah discover?
19. According to verse 25, how did he try to solve the problem?
20. According to verses 26-27, why was this such a problem?

Summary and Application:

1. In Nehemiah's time, it was important not to marry foreigners or to allow them into the assembly of God, because culture and worship were closely connected. Now that the Church is made up of people from every tribe and tongue and nation, what is it important for us to exclude from the church and from our marriages? How can we hold one another accountable to make progress toward holiness in these areas of our common life?
2. Since the coming of Christ it is no longer proper to sacrifice animals as a part of public worship. What sorts of offerings should we provide today? How can we provide for the leaders of the Church?
3. Have you ever made a solemn promise to God that you eventually failed to keep? Why is it so hard to maintain devotion, even after an amazing experience like a revival?