

Rejoicing in the Rubble

Nehemiah 8:13-18

Review

1. The people's willingness to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles shows their desire not just to know the Scriptures, but to live according to them.
2. The people rejoiced during the Feast because they knew God would provide for them.
3. The people rejoiced during the Feast because they knew God would protect them.
4. The people rejoiced during the Feast because of God's presence with them.

Go further

1. In Exodus 23:16, the Feast of Tabernacles is called the Feast of Ingathering. In what season and after what event were the people supposed to celebrate it?
2. What do you think was the connection between the completed harvest and the people's need to worship God?
3. In Leviticus 23:39-43, the Feast of Tabernacles is described again. For how long does Moses say the people should keep the feast?
4. What are the people supposed to do on the first and the last days of the Feast? What does this kind of resting say about our faith in God?
5. What does verse 40 say the people are to build their booths out of? Why do you think the people would find it meaningful to be surrounded by these things for a week?
6. In verse 43 what reason does God give His people for living in these booths? Why would it be meaningful for the people to remember this part of their history?
7. Of what relationship does God remind the people at the end of verse 43? How does this emphasize God's presence among His people?
8. In Numbers 29:12-38, God tells the people how many animal sacrifices they are to make during the festival. By making all these offerings, what statement were the people making about the importance of their worldly possessions? Why would this be especially important at harvest-time?
9. In Deuteronomy 16:13-15, Moses briefly reviews the requirement to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. In verse 14, who is supposed to participate in the feast? How would the fatherless and the widows be able to participate?
10. What reason does Moses give in verse 15 for celebrating the feast?
11. In Deuteronomy 31:10-11, how often does Moses say the Law of God should be read to the people? On what occasion is the law to be read?

Apply:

1. In what sorts of situations do you find it hard to rejoice in God's presence?
2. How does looking at all the things God has given you (counting your blessings) fuel your faith?
3. How does remembering how God has protected you in the past fuel your faith?
4. Moses directed the people to include the fatherless and the widows in their celebrations. How does reaching out to those who are less fortunate fuel your faith?