

The Important Gift of Listening
Nehemiah 8:1-3 & 7-12

God is a good _____. His people should be also. Nehemiah 8 serves as a call for us to _____ God's word—to really listen to what He is saying.

That the people came together after finishing the wall is not unusual. What is special here is that it was not the spiritual _____ begging the people to hear the word but the _____ themselves who desired to hear the word of God in Scripture. We care about what someone has to say when we care about _____. John Piper wrote, “Loss of interest in the word of God is loss of interest in _____.”

Reading the Bible for the _____ can negatively affect your relationship to God. Reading for lesser reasons will mostly _____ and cause a loss of interest. The reason we read and hear God's word is this: to know _____. Paul wrote in Phil. 3 that his goal was to know Christ. This is the motive that should drive us to the Word. The Scriptures testify of _____.

Another important reason for hearing God's word is this: Hearing the word afresh brought an awareness of the _____ of their God and their own _____, failures, and _____.

But Nehemiah insisted that this condition should not last—that brokenness over our sin shouldn't be _____. Some people get _____ in their shame and brokenness and feelings of worthlessness in the face of a Holy God. Why shouldn't we?

Persisting in brokenness reinforces a false, unbiblical _____: that _____ are responsible for the outcome of our days. Nehemiah wanted them to realize that their future with Him is not determined by who _____ are but by who _____ is!

Nehemiah knew what would not be revealed fully until Jesus came. Only God's word enables us to stare down _____ and replace it with rejoicing. And we must let His word produce this joy in us because it reinforces the one _____ narrative: that _____ is our rock and our salvation, our stronghold; we shall not be _____!