

Leadership from Nehemiah 8

Bible teaching is the heart but not the whole of gospel ministry¹

Neh. 1-6 – rebuilding the walls, led by Nehemiah's governorship

Neh. 7-12 – spiritually rebuilding the people, led by Ezra's preaching

1. They honoured God's word (v1-6)

- a. They asked to hear God's word
 - i. Serious logistical preparations
 - ii. The appetite of the people

Remind people of the privilege of hearing the Word

Respond to the Word – but not more than 1 song

b. They listened attentively to God's Word

Ensure quality of the preaching from the pulpit

Length of preaching – determined partly by ability of preacher, history of the congregation, type of passage, presence of unbelievers – but many cultures across the world are longer than we're used to

Investing in the platform / operational ministries – AV, live streaming, buildings etc.

Reverence for the Word – are you signalling this through what you invest in and what you get excited about?

2. They explained God's word (v7-8)

a. The teachers were learned

We need ministry training & Bible handling training & theological training

Get on the job training, audit courses

Give yourself talks on theological topics you don't know about

b. They made it clear

Crucify your style (J C Ryle)

Perash – make clear, drew out the implications of the action required (Lev. 24:12;

Num. 15:34), 'what accords with sound doctrine'

3. They celebrated God's word (v9-12)

- a. Repentance and grief (v9)
- b. → Joy in the grace of the Lord (v10-12)

Sing. Don't crush praise

Preach with joy

4. They obeyed God's word (v13-18)

- a. They paid attention to the details (v14-15)
- b. They obeyed what they read, however strange (v16-17)

¹ Maximise talks on Acts 6 – [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#).

- c. The joy of obedience (v17)
- d. They couldn't get enough of the Word! (v18)

Lead with collective not just individual repentance. Church must be regularly changing, reformed by the Word of God – because we've never arrived.

Outflow of Word honoured, explained, celebrated, obeyed:

- Chapter 9 – renewed reverence for God
- Chapter 10 – renewed commitment to godliness
- Chapter 11 – renewed willingness to stay or go in God's mission
- Chapter 12 – renewed joy in celebrating God
- Chapter 13 – renewed zeal for social reform

Supreme example of honouring, explaining, celebrating, obeying God's Word = Jesus

We need to lead in that Christ-like way