

HEARING LIKE ISRAEL HEARD

Nehemiah Chapter 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We all need to be reminded from time to time about many things. 2Pet 1:12-15; 3:1; Jude 1:5
- B. Faith comes by hearing God's word Rom 10:17
- C. We then need to take heed (earnestly contemplate how we hear) Lk 8:18
- D. Story of a little boy asked to read before the class, after he finished he was asked to tell what he had read in his own words. The boy replied, "I can't," the teacher asked why, and he replied, "I wasn't listening."
- E. The account of how the Israelites heard the reading of the law should serve as an example for us today.

DISCUSSION:

I. **EAGERLY & INQUIRINGLY Neh 8:1,18**

- A. Rich young ruler ran to Jesus Mk 10:17
- B. Desire sincere milk of word 1Pet 2:2
- C. Note Bereans Acts 17:11
- D. We must try the spirits 1Jhn 4:1

II. **ATTENTIVELY - LISTEN CLOSELY Neh 8:3**

- A. Every one that could understand gathered together
- B. People were attentive even though reading was from morning till mid-day
- C. Peter demanded attention on Pentecost Acts 2:14
"Be this known unto you; hearken to my words"
- D. Lydia attended to Paul Acts 16:14

III. **PERSONALLY Neh 8:3**

- A. All the people listened
- B. Question is "What must I do?" Acts 16:30
- C. Question "Is it I?" Mk 14:18,19
- D. When we hear the word of the Lord we must make a personal application.

IV. **HUMBLY AND REVERENTLY Neh 8:5,6**

- A. Stood up lifted up their hands and bowed their heads
- B. When we come together we are in the presence of God's Son Matt 18:20
- C. Note Rev 4:11 Those before the throne gave glory and honor

V. **IMPARTIALLY Neh 8:3**

- A. Were attentive to the Law not the speaker
- B. People have a tendency to show partiality to certain speakers - the famous or gifted draw large crowds
 - 1. Preachers just servants 1Cor 3:3-7
 - 2. Don't be partial to appearance Jas 2:1-4
 - 3. Do nothing by partiality 1Tim 5:21
- C. Two young men heard a gifted speaker and said afterward "what a wonderful speaker". These same young men heard a man not so gifted and said afterward "what a wonderful saviour".
- D. The emphasis must be on the message not the one who speaks. Note: Jesus chose 12 uneducated men and 1 educated man as apostles

VI. **UNQUESTIONINGLY Neh 8:14-17**

- A. They had the attitude of Samuel 1Sam 3:10 They were ready to accept what God said without reservation
- B. Even Christ became obedient to the Father's will Heb 5:8,9
- C. Those on Pentecost "gladly received the word" Acts 2:41
- D. Freedom from sin comes after obedience Rom 6:17,18
- E. To enter the kingdom - must do the Father's will Matt 7:21

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must listen to the advice of our Lord and take heed how we hear. Lk 8:18
- B. Hearing without obedience is not hearing in the Bible usage of the term.
- C. Christ is the author of salvation to them that obey Him Heb 5:8,9