

## 20230219 The joy of the LORD is our strength

Nehemiah 8:7-12

Rebuilding series Part 6

7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there.

8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

10 Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

### JESUS WANTS TO GIVE US HIS JOY

(The ultimate goal of our life – the joy of the LORD)

John 15:11

<sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**

## THREE ISSUES THAT WE NEED TO TACKLE TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF THE LORD

### 1. The complication within ourselves

Nehemiah 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup> When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.

<sup>7</sup> I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them

<sup>8</sup> and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

### 2. The conspiracy from our enemies

Nehemiah 6:14-16

<sup>14</sup> Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah and Sanballat have done. And remember Noadiah the prophet and all the prophets like her who have tried to intimidate me.

<sup>15</sup> So on October 2 the wall was finished - just fifty-two days after we had begun.

<sup>16</sup> When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

### **3. The contriteness of our heart**

Psalm 19:7-8

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

Nehemiah 8:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet.

<sup>6</sup> Then Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Zachariah 12:10

<sup>10</sup> Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.