

Hearing from God
Today's Talk: Responding to God
Nehemiah 8:1-12

NOTES: *The veracity of God's Word is the center on which life arranges itself – always. Read it with awe, listen to its words, stake your life on it. Max Anders.*

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: When have you completed a project, task or event and asked yourself, *what's next?* Do you move on to the next thing quickly or easily? Is this healthy? Discuss.

The Basics: Read Nehemiah 6:15 and 8:1-12. What was the *actual goal* of the Jerusalem rebuilding project? Read Philippians 3:10 and discuss the following phrase in context to Nehemiah, Project 414 and your life: *The goal of a God-sized vision is...God.*

Quick Fire Round:

- Read Nehemiah 8:1-8. How did God's Word impact the Israelites? Can spiritual renewal and transformation happen outside of God's Word? What does this mean to you?
- Read Psalm 1:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:16-21. How does God's Word convict of sin, cause repentance, affirm God's grace, instruct in daily living, cause people to serve others, reveal more of God and His plans for us? Describe a time when God's Word led you to a time of repentance, conviction and/or transformation?
- Read Nehemiah 8:7-8. How did those who knew the Law help those who did not? How can we, individually and as a church, find ways to help others understand God's Word? Why might this be the real goal and desire of NMC's vision? How might you personally be involved and how does this fit with *disciples making disciples*?
- Read Nehemiah 8:9-12. How did the people respond to God's Word? What stands out to you and why? Read Nehemiah 8:13-18 and James 1:22-25. Why is hearing God's Word insufficient both then and now? How can we celebrate the impact of knowing God through His Word and Spirit in our lives today?

The challenge: This is Commitment Sunday. What is God asking you to prayerfully and financially commit to Project 414? Why and how is the vision beyond buildings? What could be the real impact of Project 414 on your life, the NMC and wider community?

Prayer: *Lord, may we not be content to just hear your words. May we have a thirst to learn, to be taught by your Spirit, to examine and understand what you have written in the Bible. But more than this, may we take what you reveal and live it. Amen*