

Dr. John Johnson
Getting Our Bearings
December 10-11, 2005
Nehemiah 8:1-12

As the wall of Jerusalem is completed, the people of the city are drawn to the Word of God. They recognized the seventh month of their year as a special time and therefore look to God to meet them. Pastor John showed us through this chapter and the people of Jerusalem what is necessary to have God meet with us.

- He comes when we come with desire, vs. 1 “they told Ezra...”
- He comes when we come with open ears, vs. 3
- He comes when we come with reverence, a reverence of expectation to hear from Him, vs. 5-6
- He comes when we come with minds to get it, that is the truth of the Word of God

Further, here’s what happens when God meets us in His Word:

- Our hearts are pierced, we are made aware of our sin and it grieves our hearts.
- Our souls are healed, lives are centered, relationships are restored, and there is a genuine joy expressed.

Suggested discussion questions:

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Johnson’s study of Nehemiah 8?
2. What words would you use to describe your relationship with the Word of God? (distant, intellectual, curious, expectant, fill in the blank_____???)
3. Share a time when God met you as you read the Word of God. A time possibly when you were broken, refreshed, or challenged by what it said to you.
4. What could you do to deepen your desire, your hearing, your reverence, your ability to “get” the Word of God?