



Sermon Notes: The Joy of The Lord

What's the theme, the *telos*, the ultimate aim of God's Story?

- God's people in God's place under God's rule.

1. Where God finds His joy.

- a. God finds joy in rescuing and restoring sinners to be His people.
- b. God finds joy in preparing a safe and secure place for His people to dwell.
- c. God finds joy in giving His people life through His Word.

2. Where you find your joy.

- a. Join - and encourage others to join - the people of God.
- b. Invest in God's place.
- c. Satisfy your soul in God's Word.
- d. Remember that God's not finished yet.



Gospel Applications: The Joy of The Lord

Discuss.

1. Who are the people listed in Nehemiah 7? What's the point of this list? What list of names is God keeping today? How is it similar to and different from the list in Nehemiah 7? How does it affect you to know God is keeping this second list?
2. Compare Nehemiah 7:1-4 with Revelation 21:22-27? What similarities do you observe? What differences? How has God made the end of the story even better than the beginning?
3. What are some ways the people demonstrated a commitment to the Word of God in Nehemiah 8? How did each of these behaviors ultimately help them understand the Word?
4. In what ways do you struggle to understand the Word of God? What encouragement do you find here in Nehemiah 8?
5. Where - or in what - are you presently seeking your joy? What effect is that having on your joy? Would others describe you as a truly joyful person? Why or why not?
6. On a day to day basis, who do you functionally treat as "your people"? What do you treat as "your place"? What rule or authority do you submit to most easily - who's your "lord"?
7. When you see the joy God has in restoring and blessing a redeemed people by sheer grace, what are several ways this strengthens you today?

Pray.

1. Confess where you are not focused on and living for the joy of the Lord. Acknowledge where you're seeking your joy in a different story.
2. Spend some time praising the Lord for this storyline of Scripture: God's people in God's place under God's rule. Praise him that this outcome is not achieved (by merit) but received (by grace). Meditate on how this gives you strength for the challenges you're facing right now. Thank Him.