

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 8:1-18 **(August 26, 2026)**

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The people of Israel gathered as one accord to hear the Word of God read publicly for hours without complaint -- what does this reveal about the condition of their hearts, and what might it say about our own willingness to sit under extended, serious engagement with Scripture?
2. Harry Ironside observed that every genuine revival in history has been rooted in the recovery and study of God's Word -- in what ways do you see a hunger for Scripture as both a sign and a catalyst of spiritual awakening in your own life or community?
3. When the people heard the Law read aloud, they wept and mourned, yet Nehemiah told them the joy of the Lord is their strength -- how do godly sorrow and genuine joy work together in the process of spiritual renewal, and have you experienced both in response to God's Word?
4. Ezra did not simply read the Law but made sure the people understood its meaning, giving the sense of what was written -- what does this tell us about the responsibility of those who teach Scripture, and what should we expect and seek from those who lead us in God's Word?
5. The Levites played a vital role in calming, instructing, and caring for the people as they processed what they heard -- how does the body of believers serve one another in helping each person move from conviction to understanding and ultimately to rejoicing?
6. The people discovered the Feast of Booths written in the Law at precisely the time they were meant to celebrate it -- what does this moment of providential timing teach us about what happens when a community commits itself to reading and obeying Scripture together?
7. The sermon draws a connection between the Israelites building booths in obedience to what they heard and James's call to be doers of the Word and not hearers only -- where in your own life have you heard God's Word clearly but struggled to move from hearing to action, and what held you back?
8. The people had not celebrated the Feast of Booths since the days of Joshua, yet they immediately embraced it once they understood what God required -- what long-neglected spiritual disciplines or acts of obedience might God be calling you to recover in this season of your life?
9. Ezra stood on an elevated platform and the people rose to their feet when the scroll was opened, demonstrating reverence for the Word of God -- how does the way we approach Scripture in our personal and corporate lives reflect the value we truly place on it?