Recalculate
Nehemiah 8:5, 9-12
Sermon Outline

1. Use God’s Word to Recalculate Your Life (vs. 5):

   1. The sequence in chapter 8 is striking: intellectual response to the Word (vv. 1–8), emotional response to the Word (vv. 9–12), and volitional response to the Word (vv. 13–18).[1]
   2. Ezra spoke by announcing what was in the Word of God.
   3. Even though the people went to church the word was not read.
   4. The word of God was read in clear view of the people (7:4).
   5. This is a unified large group of people who had completed building the wall (6:16). This was all the people (vs. 5, 9, 11, 12).
   6. Unity was proven to be their strength.
   7. Ezra was completely committed to stand and read the Word of God to the people. He was going to read it until he was finished.
   8. Ezra came before the people like a priest coming before God with a sacrifice. Ezra viewed this as his official role in ministering to the people and that is to keep the Word of God before them.
   9. Ezra taking the Word of God seriously and spending time with it, is worship.

2. A Recalculated Life is Centered on Worship (vs. 9-10a):

   1. All the leaders were committed to the task of making sure they understood the Word of God.
   2. The leaders were committed to teach the people how to distinguish between good and evil by providing them the knowledge of the Word of God. This teaching was an ongoing process.
   3. They taught the people to live the Word because life application elevates God in a person’s life, whereas Bible knowledge elevates the person who has the ability to remember the Word (1 Corinthians 8:1-2).
   4. The day of their teaching was devoted to God and was viewed as pure.
   5. That day is a day of devotion because it is for the one who has all authority, is their majestic ruler (magnified by the fact that wall is completed and the enemies are no longer strong against them; 6:19), and must be reverenced and feared by all men. He is not just ruler and creator of all He is also the one who judges the earth.
   6. They must not become highly emotional with loud sounds of distress as if they are grieving or complaining about their circumstances.
   7. The people mourned when they came to the realization that their circumstances had a lot to do with their fathers and mothers decision to not live according to God’s standards.

8. When we are convicted, we must focus on the resolution not our feelings.
9. The people gave their undivided attention to the reading and teaching of the law. Once the people acquired a full knowledge and understanding of what the Word of God said they mourned and wept.
10. Our heart for God’s Word is exposed by our attentiveness to it.
11. All the leaders endlessly told the people to stop mourning and weeping. It seems like the leaders had to be persistent to get them to stop.
12. They commanded the people to focus on celebrating God, fellowship with each other and help the poor. They provided them a clear direction that was now supposed to become a pattern for how the live before God.
13. Worship is obedience and it is a celebration of who God is.

3. A Life Recalculated Finds Joy (vs. 10b-12):

1. The day of their teaching was devoted to God and was viewed as pure.
2. Approach God’s day of worship with sincere devotion to Him.
3. That day is a day of devotion because it is for the one who has all authority, is their majestic ruler (magnified by the fact that wall is completed and the enemies are no longer strong against them; 6:19), and must be reverenced and feared by all men. He is not just ruler and creator of all He is also the one who judges the earth.
4. A reverence and respect for God keeps us in the day of trouble.
5. They should not allow themselves to be so sorrowful that they experience mental and physical anguish.
6. Excessive gladness should be expressed because the Lord did not forsake His covenant, He fought off their enemies in His own power and might, and demonstrated that He has all authority over everything.
7. God’s victories reassure us of His power and might.
8. The Lord because of who He is has proven that He is the refuge and fortress for His people.
9. When we take refuge in God it leads to joy.
10. The Levites admonish the people to be silent by holding their peace.
11. They spoke to all the people directly ordering them to hold their peace.
12. They must seek to gain control of themselves by being silent; literally to “hush”.
13. Remember God so that our hearts can find comfort.
14. The day has been set aside to honor and magnify God not deal with their grief and weeping. They must keep it pure with complete devotion to God.
15. They should not allow themselves to be so sorrowful that they experience mental and physical anguish.
16. What the Levites told them to do became their righteous life-style; the manner in which they now lived. They will now live responsibly before God with an upright life-style.
17. The people matured from all that took place so that they did not mourn or weep because they functioned in the strength of the Lord as the Levites instructed them.
18. Worship God with gladness.
19. The people now knew how to distinguish between good and evil as a result of the knowledge gained from the Word of God being taught. The now had a superior knowledge of the Word.
20. Made known to them - **This means experiential knowledge.** By obeying the words taught by their leaders’ people came to a day to day experience of understanding the meaning of the Word. This allow them to be in a complete state knowing right from wrong as the live each day.

21. Their knowledge of God was more than information it was their day to day experience.

22. Their lives recalculated and now they can powerfully experience God.