**HEAR WITH UNDERSTANDING**

**Nehemiah 8:1 – 3**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The text for this lesson finds some principles worthy of our consideration (Neh 8:1 – 3).

**BODY:**

**1. “ALL THE PEOPLE GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER” (v1)**

 A. Remember “…things written aforetime…” (Rom 15:4). How is this meaningful?

 B. All the people gathered together at one point.

 1. Since this was in Jerusalem, understand ***NOT*** every Jew was gathered at that point.

 2. **BUT** those reassembled themselves in Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity were.

 C. Notice: “…both men and women, and all that could hear with understanding…” (v2)

 1. This indicates within this group are children, able to ascertain what was going on.

 2. God has always required His Children be taught concerning His Word and Will.

 A. One example of being brought to learn God’s Law from the mouth of Ezra. B. What a tragedy [today] when people, even those claiming membership in the

 church, won’t do all they can ensuring their children are taught God’s Word!

 1. There will be a lot of people lost because their parents failed in this area!!

 D. Those having children need to ensure OBEDIENCE with God’s Word (Eph 6:4).

**2. THEY DID NOT ONLY GATHER TOGETHER, BUT GATHERED “AS ONE MAN”**

 A. The thought of gathering as one in this way was an indication of their unanimity.

 1. They were unanimous in coming together for the purpose of hearing God’s Word.

 B. As they gathered to hear God’s Word, there was ***NO*** division at all among these brethren.

 1. Their influence was strengthened ***NOT*** weakened when coming together (1 Cor 1:10).

 D. The PRAYER of Jesus (Jn 17:1-26) is a PRAYER of UNITY for His People.

 1. His Apostles (v11); His Disciples (vv20-23).

 A. Brethren, if there is onething needed in the kingdom of God, it is UNITY!!

**3. “TO BRING THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF MOSES” (v1)**

 A. An eagerness to learn God’s Will; expounded upon the precepts set forth.

 B. Today, in our lives, to come to an understanding of God’s Will (Mt 5:6).

 1. One discouragement for most preachers than anything else is to study long hours for

 everyone’s benefit (Bible Class included) and have a special few [people] attend.

**4. JUST HOW INTERESTED THESE PEOPLE WERE ABOUT HEARING HIS WORD**

 A. It says, “He read...from morning until midday”.

 1. This was from daylight until noon (or after Ezra related what the Scriptures said).

 B. Notice, also, these people were *attentive* to what was being said during those 6 hours.

 1. The words “were attentive” were ***NOT*** in the original, supplied by the translators.

 A. “The ears of all the people were unto the book of the law.”

 B. Therefore, attentiveness is present in the passage because of what was being said.

 D. Now, to elaborate upon [our] attention span.

 1. The area of time given attention to something before [our] mind starts to wander.

 2. Normally, when it comes to teaching/preaching, it is not much more than 30 minutes.

 A. **BUT**, is it ***NOT*** strange [our] attention span drastically increases when it comes

 to sports activities, movies, the newspaper and things such as these?

 B. Is it strange these Jews could have an attention span of 6 hours while ours is less?

 3. Maybe, just maybe, rather than a problem with [our] attention span, [we] have a heart condition ailing us. In other words, [our] heart is ***NOT*** focused on Christ!!

 E. Rather than make [our] Bible classes and sermons conform to [our] “attention spans”

 [we] need to conform [our] attention spans to the Bible classes and sermons!