

actIon [4]

I act on...Joy

Series Theme:

“So we built the wall...for the people had a mind to work.” (Nehemiah 4:6)

Last Week: When you see a need, respond with prayer, courage and cooperative action.

What it took to build the wall (Nehemiah 3):

-a people...of all kinds...working together...overcoming challenges.

Today:

² ...Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon...And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law... ⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ The Levites... instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ...¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.... ¹⁷ ...From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it [the Feast of Tabernacles] like this. And their joy was very great. -portions of *Nehemiah 8*

Theme: Let joy from God be your strength for action.

Progression to joy:

-openness to Scripture

-brokenness over failings

-responsiveness to grace

action steps:

Scripture Journey

◇ M Sep-12	Luke 17	Ps 145:14-21
◇ Tu Sep-13	Luke 18	Ps 146
◇ W Sep-14	Lu 19:1-27	Ps 147
◇ Th Sep-15	Lu 19:28-48	Ps 148
◇ F Sep-16	Luke 20	Ps 149
◇ Sa Sep-17	Luke 21	Ps 150
Su Sep-18	off or catch up	

Memory Link: Nehemiah 8:10