

The Solemn Assembly

Nehemiah 8

Introduction

Howard Hughes Example

Statistics on going to church.

Statistics are now showing that going to church increases your chances of having successful marriage.

Charles Stokes Sociologist Family Studies.org –

Nominal Christianity divorce more than secular married people.

Shaunti Feldhahn –

3% of successful marriages credit God being the center of their marriage.

Dr. Bradford Wilcox of National Marriage Project –

found that Active Protestant are 35% less likely to get divorced than nominal churchgoers and non-church goers.

5 things going to church does for your marriage:

- Raising children in church reduces the likelihood of delinquency
- **Mark Littler Manchester University** Church attendance reduces crime:
- Littering / Skipping School or work / Illegal drugs / fare dodging / Shoplifting / vandalism / violent crime
- Gathering as the family of God is necessary to spiritual, marital, and societal health
- Nehemiah 8 they gathered in a solemn assembly to worship God.

Psalm 122:1 *“I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord”*

Verses 1-3 They Gathered Together

1. The work was complete
2. They gathered as one man
3. Ezra led (**Ezra 7:10**) *“Ezra prepared in his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it and to teach it in Israel statutes and judgements”*

4. They sat at the water gate
5. Their ears were attentive
6. They were ready to listen

Verses 4-6 They Stood in Reverence

1. A pulpit was constructed
2. The word was above the people
3. The people stood when the book was opened

Verse 6 They Worshipped Passionately

1. Ezra prayed
2. They said Amen together
3. They raised their hands
4. They bowed their heads
5. They worshipped with their faces to the ground

Verses 7-12 They Understood the Scripture

1. They read carefully
2. They read to understand
3. They taught each other
4. They wept when they got it
5. They encouraged each other
6. The joy of the Lord is our strength

Verses 13-18 They Applied What They Learned

1. **George W. Truitt** *"To know the will of God is our greatest knowledge but to do the will of God is our greatest challenge."*
2. The Feast of Tabernacles (Exodus 23:16 / Leviticus 23:39-43 / Numbers 29:12-38)
3. Not practiced since the time of Joshua
4. It was a solemn assembly

Conclusion

1. We gather because the job is done at Calvary
2. We gather to show reverence to Jesus
3. We gather to worship
4. We gather to understand and grow in the word of God
5. We gather to obey and apply God's Word

Challenge

1. Do you value the solemn Assembly of God's people?
2. Do you value the power of the Word of God?
3. Do you seek to understand?
4. Do you seek to apply what is learned here?