

**TODAY'S
SCRIPTURE
FOCUS:**

Nehemiah
8:1-12

**"PEOPLE
OF
THE BOOK"**

"If you want your church to become purpose-driven, you will have to lead it through four critical phases." (pg. 93-94)

4 CRITICAL PHASES:

(pg. 94)

1. Define Your Purpose;
2. Communicate Purposes;
3. Organize Around Purposes
4. Apply Your Purposes;

"It isn't our job to create the purposes of the church but to discover them."
(pg. 98)

"Our duty is to understand the purposes Christ has for the church and to implement them."
(pg. 98)

“Once you have defined the purposes of your church, you must continually clarify and communicate them...” (pg. 112)

“If you fail to communicate your statement of purpose to your members, you may as well not have one.” (pg. 112)

“This is the foremost responsibility of leadership.”

(pg. 112)

“...it is important to personalize them (the purposes)...show how there is *both* a privilege and a responsibility...” (pg. 114)

SERMONIC POINTS:

#1: PEOPLE

#2: PRACTICE

#3: PRAISE

**SERMONIC
POINT #1:
PEOPLE**

"Now ALL the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate;..."
Nehemiah 8:1a

"...and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel."
Nehemiah 8:1b

"So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month."
Nehemiah 8:2

SERMONIC POINT #2: PRACTICE

"Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women..."
Nehemiah 8:3a

"...and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law."
Nehemiah 8:3b

platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam."

"And Ezra opened the Book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up."

Nehemiah 8:5

"And Ezra *blessed the LORD, the great GOD*. Then all the people answered, '*Amen, Amen!*' while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their *faces to the ground*."

Nehemiah 8:6

SERMONIC POINT #3: PRAISE

"And Jesuah, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethair, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place."

Nehemiah 8:7

"So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of GOD; and they gave the sense, and *helped them to understand the reading*."

Nehemiah 8:8

“And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people,...”

Nehemiah 8:9a

“This day is holy to the LORD your GOD; do not mourn nor weep.’ For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.”

Nehemiah 8:9b

“Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared;”

Nehemiah 8:10a

“for this day is holy to our LORD.

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:10b

“So the Levites quieted ALL the people, saying, ‘Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.”

Nehemiah 8:11

“And ALL the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.”

Nehemiah 8:12

KEY POINT:
YOUR PRAISE
SHOULD BE
INEXTRICABLY
LINKED TO YOUR
COMPREHENSION!!!

"...for the *joy*
of the LORD is
your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10b