

Eat the Fat!

Nehemiah 8

Pastor Joshua Brooks

Ice Breaker: If you could do anything you wanted for one day – with a deep sense of God’s pleasure and approval while you did it – what would you do?

BIG IDEA: An appropriate (and biblical) response to God’s grace and forgiveness of sin is to intentionally build times of celebration and feasting into our lives.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Nehemiah 8:1-9. What kind of response does the reading of the Scriptures provoke in the people of God? Why do you think they responded this way? Can you describe a time when the Word of God cut you to the heart like this?
- 2) Read Nehemiah 8:9-11. Who are the various leaders who speak to the people about “not grieving?” Why do you think it took so many different leaders voicing this message before the people finally heeded it? Are you more inclined to respond to God’s grace (toward your sin) with grieving or with gratitude? Why?
- 3) Read Nehemiah 8:10-12. What two things does Nehemiah call the people to do right now – instead of grieving over their sin? How do you think taking these steps got their focus on God and His grace – instead of on themselves and their sin?
- 4) Nehemiah 8:12 says, “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.*” What does this verse say about the connection between “celebration” and our “understanding” of what God has done for us?
- 5) What’s one way you can build feasting/celebration into your life in an intentional way? What’s one way you can share with those who aren’t able to feast? Spend some time praying for each other – that God would lead you into a life of intentional celebration.