

Finding a Heart Beat

Worship

Nehemiah 8:1-12; Romans 12:1-2

It is so very easy for worship to become irrelevant. There are huge churches and cathedrals all over Europe, gorgeous buildings that used to house thousands of worshippers. But those inside ultimately forgot the value of truly worshipping, because they didn't share that with others. And now these churches are vacant or have only a remnant of those who became complacent in worship. As we sit in our pews year after year, we can forget the initial love and relationship with Jesus Christ that brought us here in the first place.

The people of Israel have been through the ringer; they have returned to a homeland that is destroyed. They are slowly rebuilding the walls and have become tired. In Nehemiah 8, Ezra gathers the entire people together to take a day and study God's Word. They stand for six hours in the hot Israeli sun to worship. When they worship they want God to know that they are giving him praise and they use everything they have. From their voices to their limbs to their minds. They respond with everything, because they realize how easy it is for worship to become irrelevant. That's what happened to them. Over the years of struggling to survive life, they started to forget why they worship, until Nehemiah turns their attitude around.

Nehemiah shows us that when we worship, we will be moved to respond. The children of Israel are moved by the Spirit and can't help but show God how grateful they are. Worship demands a response. Worship and coming to church once a week isn't about ourselves, but it is about an attitude that comes together as the body of Christ, a committed people who truly desire to Love God; truly worshipping then demands a response from us. Worship is our response on Sunday mornings and a lifestyle throughout the week.