

Sermon Title: The Exposition of Scripture, Part 3

Sermon Text: Nehemiah 8:9-12

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an understanding of the produce of Expository Preaching.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 basic products of Expository Preaching.

Introduction: Here are seven qualities of authentic expository preaching gleaned from definitions of various writers through the generations.

1. In expository preaching the preacher's first aim is to discover the text writer's intended theological meaning in the selected text.
2. Expository preaching is that in which the preacher seeks to let the text speak again through the sermon with the same theological message.
3. The preacher of expository sermons discovers the meaning of the text through a careful exegetical analysis of the text in all its particulars.
4. Expository preaching calls for careful consideration of the contexts in which the text was originally written.
5. An expository sermon is organized with due consideration to the structure and genre of the selected passage.
6. The expository preacher will seek to influence the audience through the use of the rhetorical elements common to persuasion.
7. Expository preaching aims for a response of faith and obedience to the biblical truth on the part of the audience.

[Wayne McDill, *Seven Qualities of Expository Preaching*, <https://factsandtrends.net/2014/01/08/seven-qualities-of-expository-preaching/>]

- I. The Exposition of Scripture produces **conviction**. V.9
- II. The Exposition of Scripture produces **consecration**. V.10-11
- III. The Exposition of Scripture produces **celebration**. V.12

I. The Exposition of Scripture produces **conviction. V.9**

- A. The shepherding of the people is an outworking of Exposition that **convicts**. V.9a
In the exposition, the Word of God is defined, and provides understanding of what behavior God requires to truly be the people of God.
- B. The shepherding of the people is an outworking of Exposition that **comforts**. V.9b
The dedication of the wall occurred on the "first day of the seventh month" [v.2] during the New Year celebration on the first days were to be days of joy.

Leviticus 23:24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: `In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-*rest*, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

Deuteronomy 12:12 "And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who *is* within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you.

Deuteronomy 16:11 "You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who *is* within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who *are* among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

Numbers 29:1-6 `And in the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets. **2** `You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one young bull, one ram, *and* seven lambs in their first year, without blemish. **3** `Their grain offering *shall be* fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths *of an ephah* for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, **4** `and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; **5** `also one kid of the goats *as* a sin offering, to make atonement for you; **6** `besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

(**Leviticus 23:37-43**) (Feast of Trumpets, Feast of Booths, Feast of Tabernacles)

When the people heard and understood God's law (Scripture), they understood they were in violation of the law and Word of God. These were not times of joy, but of repentant sorrow [**Nehemiah 8:10** *Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*]

the people come forth as they grieved and were convicted

[**Nehemiah 8:11** *So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."*]

over the distressing manifestation of sin in transgressing the Lord's commands and were experiencing the consequential judgment they suffered in captivity.

II. The Exposition of Scripture produces consecration. V.10-11

A. The hearing of the Word of Exposition. V.10

1. The hearing related to consecration. V.10a

Firstly, the term "rich or fat" translates a Hebrew word [mashmannia] found in the Old Testament only here in this verse but clearly related to the verb "to make fat, to be fat." It refers to choice foods appropriate for a celebration.

Secondly, the secret drinking Hebrew [mamtaqqim] mentioned here usually may have been wine mixed with honey.

2. The sharing related to consecration. V.10b

They were to send portions of the fat food and secret drink to those who didn't have anything. Because this day was holy to the Lord.

3. The joy related to consecration. V.10c

The people were to stop grieving as a result of conviction, because their strength came from the joy of the Lord, that HE provides. True security was to be found in Yahweh alone, His personhood, promises, practical principles for the life of His people.

B. The obeying of the Word of Exposition. V.11

James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:24-28; Nehemiah 9:3

III. The Exposition of Scripture produces celebration. V.12

The exposition of the Scriptures, the returning to the law of God, called for repentance. But this was a holy day of worship, in order to prepare the people for the hard times to come
[**Nehemiah 12:43** *Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.*]

so they were encouraged to rejoice or celebrate.

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Psalms 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

The message they heard reminded them of the dual truth that God punishes sin, but also God blesses obedience. This was the reason for celebration. They had not been utterly destroyed or wiped out like other nations, in spite of their sin, and were by God's strength and grace on the verge of a new beginning of revival that calls for celebration.

Exceeding Joy - Psalm 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.

Constant Joy - Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Animated Joy - Luke 6:23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.