



Beholding the Word of God Nehemiah 8:1-12

We, as the Church, have transitioned out of the Christmas season and are now in the season of Epiphany. This Sunday, we described epiphany to be when God uses created things to reveal to us that Jesus is the Christ. Our particular focus was on how God uses *Scripture* to reveal Himself to us. Our lectionary text in Nehemiah is about God's people coming together to hear the Scriptures read after they've returned to and rebuilt Jerusalem following the exile. In the reading of the Scriptures, the people begin to worship God.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the Word of God? The Scriptures are certainly the word of God but John 1 attests that Jesus Christ himself is the eternal Word of God. Reflect on what the similarities and distinctions might be between the Scriptures as the word and Jesus as the Word.
2. Read through the Nehemiah passage. Notice the behavior of the people. What stands out to you? Why do you think they wanted the Scriptures to be read in the town square?
3. Notice the roles of the Levites in vs 7-8. Why do you think their role is significant? How might that role parallel our engagement with the Scriptures today?

4. Notice the reactions of the people as the Scriptures are read (vv 5-6). Why do you think they had this type of response? How might that impact our engagement and response with the Scriptures?

5. One of the main points from Sunday's homily is that we come to the written Word to encounter the Living Word. Have you ever had any unique encounters with God through the Scriptures? How might your perspective on engaging the Word shift going forward?

