

January 13, 2008

Series: Transforming Our World for God

Message: #12 "A Time for Change"

Scripture: Nehemiah 10:1-30

Introduction

- Last week we saw how Israel decided to get serious about their relationship with God.
- Through confession and repentance to God they began the process of getting things right with God.
- We saw that repentance is expressed in three ways:
 1. We make it public (we are accountable to God and each other) [9:38]
 2. We make an oath (mean business with God) [10:28-29]
 - The people in Nehemiah 10 bound themselves to an oath and a curse.
 - This is what people did in their day. (Deut. 27-28)
 3. We make it specific.
 - Serious change happens when we move beyond the general to the issues that get in the way between us and God.
 - Exodus 34:15
- So what does all of this have to do with you and me?
- If we are to change and get out of our endless cycles of sin and see victory over addictive behavior.
- Perhaps it is just the Word we need to hear and do something about it for two reasons:

I. It will necessitate a similar act of repentance.

- Being accountable to God and one another.
- Who are we committed to? In marriage, in joining church, in our sin dilemma?

II. It will require a similar act of separation.

- We often get it wrong as well.
- If we are going to be a people of God we have to engage our world as salt and light.
- Quite often we find ourselves in one of three cycles:
 1. Retreat from the world and isolate ourselves in our Christian culture.
 2. Or we become so immersed, so connected, we end up looking very much like the world.
 3. Or we become like Jesus - in the world but not of it.
- We are to be people of God - pointing people to the way of God.
- We must live within the boundaries of I Corinthians 10:31, "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Conclusion

- Here's our act of repentance:
 1. God, we want to be faithful to you and one another.
 2. Be not conformed to this world, but transformed by you Son.

3. To be a unique people, set apart and holy.
 4. To be engaged in the world, but not engaged to the world.
 5. To give ourselves to relationships that draw us to your hear, and not away from it.
- God help us to walk in your ways and be like Jesus.