

Listening Through Scripture
Nehemiah 8:1-12

They found written in the law how the Lord had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should dwell in booths during the festival of the seventh month.

-Nehemiah 8:14

God gives us a true story in Scripture, and this story changes everything.

THE TRUE STORY OF SCRIPTURE REORIENTS OUR
UNDERSTANDING

[Ezra] read out of the book of the law from daybreak until noon before...those who could understand. All the people listened attentively to the book of the law. (v. 3)

They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. (v. 8)

Ezra read out of the book of the law of God every day, from the first day to the last. The Israelites celebrated the festival for seven days. (v. 18)

The Scriptures are the swaddling clothes and manger in which Christ lies.

-Martin Luther

Read Contemplatively

Read Continuously

THE TRUE STORY OF SCRIPTURE REQUIRES OUR
CONFESSION

All the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. (v. 9)

Through the Holy Spirit, the ancient words of Scripture become contemporary to us.

THE TRUE STORY OF SCRIPTURE REFUELS OUR JOY

All the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. 10 Then Ezra said to them, "Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your stronghold." 11 And the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, since today is holy. Do not grieve." 12 Then all the people began to eat and drink, send portions, and have a great celebration, because they had understood the words that were explained to them.

[The gospel is] the tale that is too good not to be true because to dismiss it as untrue is to dismiss along with it that catch of the breath, that beat and lifting of the heart near to or even accompanied by tears, which I believe is the deepest intuition of truth that we have.

-Frederick Buechner

How is God calling you to engage with his story in Scripture?

Where is God calling you to turn from false stories that you've been living in?

How does the story of Jesus bring joy to you today?