



By Rev. Ian Angeles | Nehemiah 9:3

DISCUSS

In basketball, to pivot means to change direction. In the book of Nehemiah chapter 9, we discover four important pivotal marks among the Jews that paved the way for the joy of the Lord to be with all of them.

Read Nehemiah 9:3. What were the important responses of the people upon the completion of the wall? What effect did their actions have as described in Nehemiah 12:43?

INTENTIONAL (And they stood up in their place...)

- How does being intentional cause a pivot or change to happen?
- To whom did the returning Jews from Babylon give credit for the success of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem? How did they show their appreciation to God?
- In your case, how do you show your intentionality as a pivotal mark of a Christian in standing for God? Share a situation when you stood up for God because of your appreciation and acknowledgment for Him.

IMPORTANCE (...and read from the Book of the Law their God for one-fourth of the day)

- How did the people of God show importance to the Word of God in this verse?
- How does daily reading of God's Word a pivotal mark in the life of a Christian?
- Why does the amount of time you give to certain matters show how important this matter is to you?

- How important is the intake of food in your daily life? If the Word of God is your spiritual food, how often should you read or listen to it?

INDICATOR (and for another fourth they confessed...)

- Aside from reading the Word of God, what else did the people do that indicated their genuine faith and fear of God?
- What does repentance mean?
- How does Acts 26:20 describe repentance?
- Why does a pivot in your life happen when you recognize that you have sinned against God?
- What other things in your life indicate that your faith is indeed genuine?

IMPACT (...and worshiped the Lord their God)

- What followed after God's people read the Word of God, prayed, and confessed their sins?
- Why does it sometimes take a person to be stripped of everything he holds onto before he realizes that God is Who he needs?
- How is worship an expression of your love for God? How does worship impact your relationship with Him?

REFLECT

Pivot is a change of direction—an improvement for the better, an innovation to maintain balance in life. How do you express intentionality in what you do for God? How do you choose the importance of living according to His Word and not according to the standards and systems of this world? Do you have a repentant heart that results in a change of behavior? How does worship impact your life?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me realize that I need a pivot or change in my outlook in life that I can get from Your Word, through prayer, and by worshiping. Thank you also for reminding me once again that I need a repentant heart, that when my mind changes on how I look at sin, it results in a change in my actions. May the impact of all these turn my worries and concerns into worship because You alone deserve to be truly worshiped. In Jesus' name. Amen.