

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS ~ Nehemiah 11:1-12:47

→ Scripture Reading Psalm 51:1-2, 3-4, 3-5, 10-12, 16-17

CELEBRATING BY RESETTLING IN JERUSALEM ~ Nehemiah 2:17; 7:4; 11:1-2

[2:17] Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins...

[7:4] Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.

[11:1-2] Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem, and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. [2] The people commended all the men who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

Who moved to Jerusalem?

>468 men of Judah

>928 men of Benjamin

>1192 Priests

>284 Levites

>172 Gatekeepers

APPLICATION

Jerusalem was...

- to be Center of Worship
- supposed to be the Center of the Nation
- where the Messiah would someday come

"Money is simply a symbol that stands for human resources. Money stands for what you can get from man instead of God. God deals in the currency of GRACE, not money: ...So the heart that loves money is a heart that pins its hopes, and pursues its pleasures, and puts its TRUST in what human resources can offer." (J. Piper pg. 324 - Future Grace)

CELEBRATING THE WALL AS GOD'S WORK ~ Nehemiah 12:27-43

The Preparation vs.27-30

[12:27] At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres...

...[30] When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

The Priests and Levites Purified

- Themselves
- People
- Gates
- Wall

The Celebration vs.31-43

[31] I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate. [32] Hoshaiiah and half the leaders of Judah followed them, ...[35] as well as some priests with trumpets, and also Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, [36] and his associates--Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah and Hanani--with musical instruments [prescribed by] David the man of God. Ezra the scribe led the procession.

[38] The SECOND CHOIR proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall, together with half the people-- ...[40] The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, [41] as well as the priests...

Celebration Included:

- Two Choirs
- Musicians with Harps, Cymbals, Trumpets, Lyres
- Religious & Political Leaders
- Marching All around the Wall in Celebration
- Ending Together at the Temple

[43] And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

APPLICATION

Psalms 51:10-12 (NIV) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. [11] Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. [12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me .

David's Prayer...

- make my heart pure
- keep me steadfast
- do Not cast me away
- give me Your joy
- help me Keep on Going

*Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fighting's and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

CELEBRATING BY INVESTING IN THE FUTURE ~ Nehemiah 12:44-47

[44] At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes. From the fields around the towns they were to bring into the storerooms the portions required by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites. [45] They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did also the singers and gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son Solomon.

SO WHAT ??

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Investing in the Future...

- Banish Selfish Ambition
- Humbly Respect Others
- Focus on Others First