



Sermon Series Notes

"Finding & Accepting Your Lot In Life" (Nehemiah 11-12)

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I. THE TEXT

Nehemiah 11

vv.1-2 Living in Jerusalem was like living on the front lines of the battle. That's where the work of rebuilding had taken place, and that is where the enemy repeatedly mustered his forces. It is interesting to note that God wanted to make sure that the best of the leadership was stationed in Jerusalem.

* Acts 8:1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

v.6 Why is Perez mentioned again? I thought these were descendants of Judah.

* See Gen.38; Ruth 4:9-12; Matthew 1:3-6a

* How God reminds us of His matchless mercy and grace here! Despite our sinful failure, His grace offers to us a place of blessing. Do not take His grace for granted!

v.17 Mattaniah is the great grandson of Asaph. Asaph was king David's chief musician. Asaph wrote much of the instrumentation for the psalms we have in the Bible.

* Note: Asaph wrote Psalm 73, a psalm describing his struggle in faith

v.24 For the ministry God has called me to here at CCSP, you could insert Dave Dodge's name in here.

Nehemiah 12

v.24 Have a psalm divided on the two media screens and have each side of the congregation do responsive reading.

v.26 If you are a gatekeeper here at CCSP, you serve in the days of Danny son of Bobby, the son of Charlie the farmer, and in the days of Bob Corry, the governor, and of Joe Seddio the business manager.

vv.27-29 These people were asked to be a part of what was happening in Jerusalem. These were people who had homes and families, so they would have to make a sacrifice to serve in this capacity.

v.42 Notice the order here, the organization, the planning required, and the gifted leadership necessary.

v.43 We have an opportunity to do this at our Christmas Eve service. Can you imagine several thousand people in the parking lot singing praises to God, and the surrounding neighborhood hearing it?

v.47 It's amazing what can be done if all of God's people gave.

II. LESSONS FROM THE TEXT

A. Excelling In The Grace of Giving

* II Cor.8: 7 But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

* Refer to message on I Cor.16:1-4

B. Finding Your Lot In Life

* A gatekeeper, singer, musician, priest, Levite, choir director, governor? One willing to move to the frontlines in the will of God. A simple servant, never named in the records but one who shared in the work, and was faithful in that work.

* Eph.4: 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

* What has God called you to do?

C. Accepting Your Lot In Life & Serving Wholeheartedly

* There is no record in the text of anyone complaining, or people seeking to live out someone else's lot in life. There is submission to God's will, compliance to the direction of leadership, acceptance of God's call to be a leader, and an incredible spirit of unity. And there was purity. Certainly not perfection, but no hidden sin, no hypocrisy. And the fruit of all this was great sacrifices to the Lord, rejoicing, and great joy. Even the children were rejoicing. And the sound of their rejoicing could be heard far away.

* Prov.16: 33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

* Acts 17: 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

* I am a country boy, and I do not really like living in the city. I do not enjoy the traffic. It tests my Christianity but this is God's lot in life for me. I did not seek to be a pastor (and still sometimes try to convince the Lord that he's got the wrong guy for this position). And I certainly did not volunteer to be a public speaker. But this is my lot in life.

* I sometimes stroll through the shop here at CCSP, and long to work there. I watch the maintenance guys doing their work and recall my days of doing that exact thing back in my college days. Oh to have a lifelong calling as waste management engineer. But that was not my lot in life

* Have you ever been dissatisfied with your lot in life? I'm not talking the lot that came as a result of failure to submit to the will of God in your life. I'm talking about God's lot for your life.

* See Numbers 16:8-11; II Chron.26:16-20; Psalm 73

* See John 3:22-30; Matthew 11:2-6

D. Purifying Yourself & Remaining Pure (12:30)

* A failure to maintain purity will ruin God' plans (lot) for your life.

* Hosea 8: 5 Throw out your calf-idol, O Samaria! My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity?

* II Cor.6: 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;
5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;
6 **in purity**, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

* Note: You can be a hard worker, have great endurance through troubles and hardships, be understanding, patient, even kind, and if you fail in issues of purity, ruin God's lot for you.

* I Tim.4: 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and **in purity**.

* I Tim.5:1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers,
2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, **with absolute purity**.

* II Cor.7: 1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us **purify** ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

* 2511. katharizo, kath-ar-id'-zo; from G2513; to cleanse (lit. or fig.):--(make) clean (-se), purge, purify.

* Matthew 23: 25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

* Matthew 15: 18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

20 These are what make a man 'unclean';

* Psalm 24: 3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and **a pure heart**, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Selah

* See Psalm 51:1-10 (note v.10)

CONCLUSION

* Are you excelling in the grace of giving?

* Have you **discovered** God's lot in life for you? Where are you serving?

* Have you **accepted** God's lot in life for you? Are you envious of someone else's lot?

* Have you purified yourself for the work God has for you? Are you keeping yourself pure?