

Scripture

Nehemiah 11-12

Summary

Even though the wall is completed, the city is still not populated as the houses have not yet been rebuilt (Nehemiah 7:4). The names of leaders who lead by example sacrificially to move and live in Jerusalem are highlighted and commended. As a people, each individual is given a part to play – some are to guard the city while others are set apart to lead the worship.

During the dedication of the wall, the Levites are gathered to lead everyone to celebrate with gladness, thanksgiving, singing and music. Two great choirs precede the leaders in two companies on the wall, north and south. They offer sacrifices and give generously. God has made them to rejoice with such great joy that Jerusalem is heard far away. For us today, this means acceptable worship to God is sacrificial, collective, joyful and done as our witness of the gospel to the world.

Sermon in a sentence

We were made to worship God, that is to submit to Him, to serve Him, and to revere Him, sacrificially, joyfully and responsibly.

Main Points

- I. Worship is Sacrificial (11:1-36) - Worship will inconvenience you, and cost you something, because it cost Jesus everything to enable you to worship God
- II. Worship is Joyful (12:27-43) - Worship, properly understood and practiced will move your heart, and affections with joy, because Jesus restores our joy
- III. Worship is Responsible (12:1-26; 44-47) - Worship and its fruit must be stewarded and preserved responsibly for future generations

Other Scriptures

Luke 9:23; Hebrews 12:1; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 2; John 6:39

Questions

1. Define "worship" in your own words. David Peterson points out that the Bible speaks of worship as submission to God, service to God, and reverence for God. How does this definition of

worship match up with your experience and practice of worship?

2. "Worship is costly" - what is your reaction to this statement? Nehemiah 11:1-36 shows the people of Israel putting themselves through hardship willingly in order to worship God. Give examples of how worship is costly to you. Is there anything you need to change in order for you to worship properly?
3. "Worship is joyful" - share when was the last time you felt joy in worship. Nehemiah 11:27-43 shows us the Israelites worshipping God together, with great joy. Part of the joy comes from just being with, and being the people of God. Does the depth of relationships in church affect the depths of affections you feel in worship? Why, or why not?
4. "Worship is responsible" - what is your reaction to this statement? Nehemiah 12:1-26, 44-47 shows Israel putting in place institutions and offices to ensure that worship can take place, not just in their time, but also for future generations. What are you doing to make sure that worship propagates to the next generation? Do you care?
5. Have you become a Member of the church? Why, or why not?

Think On This

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever" Westminster Shorter Catechism

RHC Core Values

Gospel-Centredness – To have the gospel in the centre of our ministry, and for everything we do to find its root in the gospel.

Experiential Faith – To actively seek the modern day work of the Holy Spirit, expecting him to move in our midst in signs and wonders, and to lead us to the will of God.

Theological Depth – To pursue a deep and soul satisfying knowledge and understanding of God through the Bible.

Community on Mission – To recognise that we are not here for ourselves, but are on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.

City Renewal – To see the gospel change every aspect of the city we are living in by doing social justice, integrating our faith and work, and seeing the city renewed culturally, socially and spiritually for the glory of God.