

SERMON SERIES



NEHEMIAH

RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

STUDY GUIDE • NEHEMIAH 12:27-47

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OUR UNALIGNED WORSHIP

THE DEDICATION OF THE WALL

NEHEMIAH 12:27-47

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Ask members to share how God's goodness and faithfulness in the past can affect how they view their present circumstances and our future.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will recognize God's goodness and faithfulness when they look back at their lives
2. Members will trust God to remain good and faithful in the present and future
3. Members will joyfully worship our good and faithful God

INTRODUCTION

Beginning from chapter 8, we saw how the Israelites dedicated themselves to God. They spent time listening and studying Scriptures. They immersed themselves in prayer. They renewed their covenant with God, to live according to His commandments. Now, the Israelites are dedicating the wall of Jerusalem to God. This is the wall that God had miraculously built through them - a testament to God's goodness and faithfulness to the Israelites. Let's take a look at how they went about dedicating the wall.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. Who were to take part in the dedication of the wall and where did they come from? (vv. 27-29)
2. What did the people do before the dedication of the wall? (v. 30)
3. What did the people do when they dedicated the wall? (vv. 31-39)
4. How would you describe the way the people worshiped God? (vv. 40-43)
5. What were the people's attitudes toward the priests and Levites who served at the temple? (v. 44)
6. How did the priests and Levites perform their duties at the temple? (vv. 45-46)
7. How did the people contribute to God's temple? (v. 47)

WORD: Understanding the Word

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. What is the significance of gathering all the people from the surrounding towns to Jerusalem for the dedication of the wall?
2. What is the significance of the Levites purifying themselves and the rest of the people before the dedication of the wall?

The leaders gathered all the people who returned from exile to celebrate the dedication of the wall. These are the people who labored in the building of the wall. It is only right that they be gathered together to celebrate the fruits of their labor. But before they dedicated the wall, they dedicated themselves to the Lord first. We saw this happen in the previous chapters. They knew that God would only accept the worship of those who were right with him. That is why they purified themselves before the dedication of the wall.

3. How do you think the people felt as they marched around the wall that they toiled to build? What does this tell them about God?
4. Why do you think the people were joyful as they worshiped God?

The people worked hard in building the wall. They were tired not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well because their very lives were in danger while they were building the wall. It seemed like an impossible task when they were working on it. But they were able to finish the wall in less than two months' time. It showed them that God was with them and He was taking care of them. Now they are able to march above the wall they worked hard to finish. It must have brought them a tremendous amount of joy to be able to see up close the proof of God's goodness and faithfulness. It is no wonder that their joy was heard by those far away.

WORD: Understanding the Word

5. Why do you think the people rejoiced over the priests and Levites who were serving at the temple?
6. Why do you think the people were faithful in giving their contribution to God's temple?

The priests and Levites served God faithfully, ministering at the temple in accordance to the instructions given by King David and King Solomon. It is not surprising that the people rejoiced over them. The people were able to give faithfully to God's temple, not just because those who minister in it were faithful, but because they themselves were faithful to God. They had offered themselves first to Him, through the reading and studying of Scriptures and in prayer. So obedience to God came easily and joyfully to them.

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. Can you think of a time you and your family did things together to celebrate? What were those? Share one or two that made you so happy. (ex: birthdays, trips, new car, new home, new toy,)
2. Have you watched dedications before like the dedication of your baby brother or sister to the Lord? Or have you experienced your house being dedicated to the Lord? What can you dedicate to the Lord? (Think of yourself, talents, and things that you own)

- YOUTH -

1. What are some of the milestones or accomplishments you've celebrated recently (in school, in your family, in your friend groups, etc.)? Looking back, how was God present in the midst of those blessings?
2. In what ways can you faithfully serve God as part of His family? Is there anything that hinders you to do so? Share with your small group or accountability partner.

- ADULTS -

1. How has God been good and faithful to you in the past? How do you feel when you recall these experiences?
2. What are some things in the future that cause you to worry? How can God's goodness and faithfulness in the past affect those worries?
3. What are some commands of God that you have a hard time obeying? What attitudes or behaviors may be hindering your obedience?

WALK: Applying the Word

- COMMUNAL -

1. Is our joy evident when we worship God as a community? Do the surrounding community see us as people who have the joy of the Lord?
2. How can we become a fellowship of believers who are dedicated to the Lord? How can we encourage fellow believers to dedicate themselves to God in our small groups?




- GLOBAL -

1. What are some “walls of Jerusalem” that local churches can “build” as a testament of God’s goodness and faithfulness to the world?
2. How has God remained good and faithful to the universal church in the past few years? How can churches celebrate God’s goodness and faithfulness?



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