

Establishing His Kingdom (Nehemiah Chapter 11 & 12)

Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:30 AM

- Chapter 1 - IGNITING/REIGNITING THE FIRE TO ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM
- Chapter 2 - PROTECTING THE FIRE
- Chapter 3 - TEAMWORK - THE POWER OF UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
- Chapter 4 - OVERCOMING THE OPPOSITION OF THE ENEMY
- Chapter 5 - INTERNAL TRANSFORMATION
- Chapter 6 - DEFEATING THE TACTICS OF THE ENEMY
- Chapter 7 - THE THIRD BATTLEFRONT - GUARDING THE GATES OF OUR FAMILIES
- Chapter 8 - PRIORITIZING THE WORD
- Chapter 9 - MAINTAINING THE SPIRITUAL HEALTH OF THE KINGDOM
- Chapter 10 - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Church is God's PRIMARY VEHICLE for establishment of God's Kingdom in this world

The Church is worthy of our PARTICIPATION

The Church requires our INVESTMENT

*Something I neglected to point out last week was the fact that so important was the local church that people willingly invested in it (with tithes & offerings, with their service) and these are the same people who in chapter 5...

- *were worried about having enough money to "eat and stay alive"*
- *were "mortgaging their fields and vineyards and homes to get grain during the famine"*
- *were borrowing money to pay the Kings tax*
- *were lamenting the fact that they had to subject their sons and daughter to slavery*

And yet in Chapter 10 we see a quite different picture because the Kingdom was being established in their hearts and in their families and in their world, internal transformations were being made as they began to implement the principles taught them from the Word of God. Principles of Righteousness, Holiness and Godliness. Principles of offerings and tithes and trusting God.

Nehemiah 10:31-33

31 "When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts.

32 “We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God.

Malachi 3:10

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

But as we have done each week, let's hear the story from the perspective of Nehemiah's sister...

Chapter 11 & 12 - WE ARE FAMILY

Maybe your asking, What does that song have to do with your message today?

As I was pouring over chapter 11 and 12 again and again, sorting through the names and descriptions asking God to show me what He wants us understand about His Kingdom; I realized that by themselves they may not make that much sense but in light of the fact that Chapter 10 is all about the importance of the local Church.

Chapters 11 & 12 give us a detailed look inside that church - and church is family

In fact the word family or families is used no less than 5 times in Nehemiah 11 & 12

The word descendant or descendants is used 10 times

The word leaders used 6 times

The word heads 5 times

The word father 5 times

The word son 22 times

I want to share 3 principles of family that apply to our biological families as well as our spiritual families because they both were set up by the same God to fulfill similar purposes in our lives

Not all families look alike. Not all church families look alike. Maybe you had a great biological family. Maybe, like me you came from a broken family and had some not so wonderful or even abominable family experiences

Maybe you have had wonderful church family experiences or maybe you've been hurt by the church (I've had both)

But what I do know is that FAMILY was created by God and is very needed in our lives

Family has structures put in place by God for our care and well being

He describes offices and titles like kings, governors, agents, priests, Levites, leaders, provincial leaders, volunteers, chief officers, temple servants, in charge of the house of God, in charge of outside work, in charge of songs of thanksgiving, followers, associates, gatekeepers, musicians responsible for service, family heads, storeroom guards, contributors

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 6:1-3

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”[\[a\]](#)

Hebrews 13:17

17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

1 Timothy 5:17

17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

We are products of our family

Both the good and the bad

But we don't have to be defined by it. He doesn't change where we have been but He can change where we are going, if we let Him. If we listen, if we follow, if we obey and if we let Him redeem us and uses us for His purposes

We should be thankful for our family and all that it has made us

Nehemiah 12:31 NIV

"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."

Genesis 50:20

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Nehemiah 12:40

"The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials,"