

Establishing the Kingdom of God

“And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy ...And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away. .” Nehemiah 11:43

Text: Nehemiah 11-12

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Action, Worship, Celebration

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Supplemental Texts: See below

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To establish the Kingdom of God, you must...

- 1. Step out of your _____ (Nehemiah 11)**
 - A. The people had to decide to leave their already established homes to step into the walls of the city of Jerusalem and rebuild their new homes.**
 - B. God often calls us out of our relaxed atmosphere and into action to establish His kingdom.**

- 2. Sing in _____ (Nehemiah 12:1-42)**
 - A. The people celebrated the dedication of the wall with glad singing that involved music instruments and choirs,**
 - B. As Christians, we have the most important reason to celebrate - our sins have been completely forgiven and we have been set free in Christ!**

- 3. _____ the Joy (Nehemiah 12:43-47)**
 - A. Verse 43 tells us that the “joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” When God brings joy, it can be seen and heard.**
 - B. When “Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them” (Acts 8:5) and many believed, God records “there was great joy in that city (v.8). There always is when people come to Christ. Whole nations have experienced a new joy such as was brought to Wales under the great Welsh revival.**

Questions for Application

- 1. What comfort did some of the people have to give up to move into Jerusalem? (11:1-2)**
- 2. Why were the Levites sought out and brought to Jerusalem? (12:27-30)**
- 3. How did Israel celebrate the completion of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem? (12:27-47)**
- 4. How did the people demonstrate their thankfulness to God for His goodness? (12:43-47)**
- 5. Have you had to give up any comforts to obey God?**
- 6. In your personal experience growing up in church, was the worship offered one of celebration or of a serious nature?**
- 7. What comfort(s) do you think God might be asking you to give up for the sake of His kingdom?**
- 8. What comfort(s) would you really struggle to give up if God asked you to do so?**
- 9. Is your personal worship of God during your quiet times more celebratory or serious? ‘**
- 10. Do you find it easy to sing the songs at church or are you more inhibited to do so?**
- 11. Do you often experience the joy of God in your life?**
- 12. Do you believe that others are seeing the joy of Christ in you?**
- 13. What are some ways you can practically spread the joy of Christ this week?**