



PART 7: TAKING TIME TO CELEBRATE

Sermon Notes

Text: Nehemiah 12:27-47

Intro:

Just like we need to learn disciplines like prayer and Bible study, we need to learn Godly celebration.

1. Remind yourself how far you've come

I may not be where I want to be, but thank God I'm not where I was

"You once...but now"

- Ephesians 5:8, Colossians 1:21-22, 1 Peter 2:10

Psalms 48:12-14

2. Get your whole self involved

Nehemiah 12:27-28

Celebration should begin in the heart and extend to the whole body.

Luke 10:27

Why do we have music in Church?

- i. Music is a fundamental construct of creation
- ii. Music is fundamental to human nature

3. Let your thankfulness be sacrificial

Nehemiah 12:40

Old Testament options thanksgiving offering

"It is one thing to shout on a great occasion, but another to offer the sacrifice of praise continually" ~Derek Kidner

4. Remember those who helped along the way

Nehemiah 12:46-47

The sacrificial system was designed to provide for the needs of the priests and Levites.

Today, part of our giving goes to support our pastors & staff

Additionally, no accomplishment is possible without the support and encouragement of the people around us.

Conclusion:

Brick #7: God's work is worth celebrating

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Consider the whole Brick by Brick series. Of the seven “bricks” of the series, which was most meaningful to you?
 - 1: The hand of our God is upon us (1:1-2:10)
 - 2: God has a vision for your life (2:11-20)
 - 3: While we work for God, he fights for us (4:1-23)
 - 4: The fear of God saves us from what we fear most (5:1-19)
 - 5: The joy of the Lord is our strength (8:1-18)
 - 6: Jesus breaks the cycle of sin (9:1-38)
 - 7: God’s work is worth celebrating (12:27-47)

Study & Discussion:

1. What does a “Godly” celebration look like? What’s the difference between a Godly celebration and a worldly one? Can you think of other examples in the Bible where people were celebrating? Do you think Christians celebrate enough?
2. Read some of the “but now” passages of the Bible: Ephesians 2:11-13, 5:8; Colossians 1:21-22; 1 Peter 2:10. What do these passages say about how far we’ve come since becoming Christians? Nehemiah had the people walk the finished walls to help remind them how far they had come. What physical reminders can we include in our lives to help remind us of the same?
3. Read Luke 10:27. We are told that our relationship with God should include our heart, soul (passions & affections), strength (will), and mind (thoughts). How can each of these participate in our celebrations? What role does music have in celebrating God?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. This passage seems to indicate that joy and thanksgiving are commands of God. Why would this be?

How do we thank God (other than words?). How do we make our thanksgiving “sacrificial”?

Application:

1. How will you celebrate God’s work this week?

Prayer:

1. Pray for God to solidify the lessons of Nehemiah in our hearts.
2. Other Requests
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