

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

# RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

## Lesson 18 – Leaders, Dedication and Celebration

### Nehemiah 12:1-47

Chapter 12 reminds us that God uses many people with various gifts to get His work done on earth. There is no insignificant person or job in God's economy. His work is big and requires everyone to take their place. In this chapter, we see the delegating of leadership as Nehemiah and Ezra, the priest, worked to assign people places to serve the Lord. Some people had been assigned to build, some were assigned to watch for the enemy while working on the wall, and others were assigned as worshippers. So together, with everyone in their place, they held a huge dedication service for the people and the work that had been done. It was a day of thanksgiving and celebration for all that God had done through His people and for His people.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

**This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 12:1-47**

*(Verses 1-26, although still important, were intentionally left out.)* <sup>27</sup> Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. <sup>28</sup> And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, <sup>29</sup> from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall. <sup>31</sup> So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate. <sup>32</sup> After them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah, <sup>33</sup> and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, <sup>34</sup> Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, <sup>35</sup> and some of the priests' sons with trumpets— Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, <sup>36</sup> and his brethren, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. <sup>37</sup> By the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went up the stairs of the City of David, on the stairway

of the wall, beyond the house of David, as far as the Water Gate eastward. <sup>38</sup> The other thanksgiving choir went the opposite way, and I was behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall, <sup>39</sup> and above the Gate of Ephraim, above the Old Gate, above the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped by the Gate of the Prison. <sup>40</sup> So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me; <sup>41</sup> and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Minjamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; <sup>42</sup> also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director. <sup>43</sup> Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off. <sup>44</sup> And at the same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions specified by the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered. <sup>45</sup> Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David and Solomon his son. <sup>46</sup> For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup> In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron.

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

**And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**

**2 Timothy 2:2(NKJV)**

1. With the wall completed the leaders turned the hearts of the people towards God to thank Him, celebrate His faithfulness, and praise Him for His goodness. Why was celebrating God's faithfulness important for the people? Why is it important for us today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Before they were able to celebrate, the people had to prepare their hearts for worship by purifying themselves. Verse 30 tells us the leaders knew this cleansing needed to start with them. Read Psalm 24:3-4 and note what is required for approaching God in worship?  
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3. Nehemiah 12:31 tells us that Nehemiah appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. Like the Israelites, we have so much to be thankful for and to praise God for! Look up the scriptures below and share what you learn about praise and worship.

a. Psalm 113:3: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Acts 16:25-26: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Hebrews 13:15: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflect and Respond** – Remember the enemy once taunted the workers saying the work on the wall could never be done. Now, the people were marching on that very wall and celebrating! God had done an amazing work restoring the walls of Jerusalem. The people knew it, and their response was to celebrate and worship Him for His goodness! Think about your own life as a child of God. What completed work of rebuilding or restoration can you worship God for? In what area of your life can you say that God turned your mourning into dancing?

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**Result** – Consider today’s Bible study lecture and group time. What one lesson will you take away from this study and apply to your walk with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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