

# Nehemiah: Restoration

(Ch 11:1-12:26)

**God is looking for a few good men and women who are willing to follow His lead.**

## 1. God expects His people to follow Him. (7:4-5, 11:1)

- a. We are rarely given the plan, we are simply asked to willingly and sacrificially obey His leadership.
  - God, often desires for us to depend upon him as an act of blind obedience. (Psalm 119:105, Matt 4:19).
  - God is fulfilling His promises to His people, but it would require their acceptance of His gift. (1Chronicles 28:8)
- b. Israel could finally become a “Holy” city (11:1)
  - The people were “camping” (Nehemiah 11:30) in the promised land but now they were able to make a home in Jerusalem.
  - This is a beautiful fulfillment of prophecy (Jeremiah 31:40) and was dependent upon their ongoing understanding of the repentance and sacrificial worship God deserves.

## 2. Restoration happens when (and only when) we are all in.

- a. God is looking for individuals who are willing to wholeheartedly join Him in what He is doing.
  - This begins with an initial step of obedience, declaring, “Here I am send me.” (Isaiah 6:8) This is the logical response to our God of grace.
  - After the initial step of obedience, this requires ongoing following the Lord and His leadership in our lives. (Luke 9:23)

*“Never underestimate the importance of simply being physically present in the place where God wants you. You may not be asked to perform some dramatic ministry, but simply being there is a ministry. The men, women, and children who helped to populate the city of Jerusalem were serving God, their nation, and future generations by their step of faith.” Warren Wiersbe*

- Your gift makes you valuable.
  - Every labor done in love is remembered by God, never forgotten, regardless of who gets public credit for it.
  - Followership is underrated.
- b. The price of admission is to be “all in.”
    - They were “volunteering” more than their time. They were donating themselves and trading their personal agenda for God's agenda. (11:2)
    - Some chose, and some were chosen, but all willfully put their names in as potential citizens of Jerusalem.
    - This obedience is always worth the investment. (Matt 13:44-46)
  - c. Some of the best and brightest of Israel were willing to follow God's leadership. (Nehemiah 11:3,6,8,14)
    - They were honored and blessed for their sacrifice.
    - God often works out the details of his promises through the mundane efforts of his people.

*“God can and does perform miracles on a grand scale. But more often He prefers to construct His promised future out of the mosaic of the ordinary, yet faithful, courageous, and sacrificial, lives of thousands of his people.” Douglas J.E Nykolaishen,*