

Worship God

Nehemiah 12:27-47

INTRODUCTION:

1. When the wall around Jerusalem was dedicated, God was worshiped (12:27).
2. Two great choirs gave thanks (12:31).
3. Four guidelines concerning worship are seen in this account.

DISCUSSION:

I. Worship has purpose.

- A. To celebrate (v. 27; cf. 1 Cor. 5:8; 11:26)
- B. To give thanks (v. 31)

II. Worship has joy.

- A. "...to celebrate the dedication with gladness..." (12:27)
- B. "And all the people...to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them" (8:12).
- C. Note the superlatives of worship:
 1. "Great choirs" (v. 31)
 2. "Great sacrifices" (v. 43)
 3. "Great joy" (v. 43)
- D. Their worship was the outflow of grateful hearts.

III. Worship has proclamation.

- A. The leaders went to the top of the walls (v. 31).
 1. Ezra went one way (v. 32); Nehemiah went the other (v. 38).
 2. There were watchers on the walls. Now there are worshipers on the walls.
- B. Rather than in the temple, Nehemiah wanted this worship on the wall.
- C. By this act, three proclamations were made:
 1. God is faithful (cf. 2:17-20).
 2. God had done the work (cf. 4:3; 6:15, 16).
 3. God has claimed it by His people's walking on it (cf. Josh. 1:3).
- D. "And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away" (v. 43).

IV. Worship has a response.

- A. After the dedication, provision was made for the continuing service to God (vv. 44-47).
- B. The giving was organized, specific, grateful, regular, and universal.
- C. "Let us do good with our goods while we live...to part with what we cannot keep that we may get what we cannot lose" (Thomas Adams).

CONCLUSION: