

“The Dedication Of A Disciple!”
Nehemiah 12:27-43

Introduction:

1. There Are Times In Our Christian Lives, That We Grow Cold!
 - There Are Seasons:
 - In Nature! Fall / Winter / Spring / Summer!
 - In Life! Infancy / Adolescence / Adulthood / Ancient!
 - In Spiritual Life / Walk With God!
 - As Much As We Wish This Were Not The Case:
 - It Often Is! Too Often!
 - As Jesus Said To The Church Of Ephesus In Revelation 2:4 - “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love!”
 - In Times Like These:
 - We Need To Renew Our Dedication To The Lord!
2. This Is What We Find Taking Place In Nehemiah 12!
 - Remember: The Jews Were The People Of God!
 - And Jerusalem Was The City Of God! The Holy City!
 - But They Had Fallen & Failed The Lord!
 - God Used Chastisement To Draw Them Back To Him!
 - Hebrews 12:6 - “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth!”
 - And Then He Started To Rebuild Them!
 - Through Effective Spiritual Leaders! Ezra / Nehemiah!
 - Through Prayer!
 - Through Practical Projects! Temple / Wall!
 - Through The Word Of God!
 - The Goal Of This Rebuilding Is Found In 12:27:
 - “The Dedication Of The Wall Of Jerusalem!”
 - Or A Re-Dedication! A Renewal!
 - Of Their Commitment To The Lord!
 - After All That The Lord Had Done For Them:
 - Security / Success / Sanctification!
3. Now, It Was Time For Them To Surrender Everything To The Lord!
 - Isn't It Time For Us, As Well?
 - To Re-Dedicate Ourselves To The Lord & His Work?
 - To Surrender Everything We Are / Have To Him?
 - After All He Has Does / Continues To Do For Us?
 - It Is Time For Us – As Christians / As A Church – To Re-Dedicate Ourselves To The Lord!

1. *There Is To Be A Readiness For Dedication!*

- 12:27-29!
 - Are You Ready To Renew Your Dedication & Commitment To The Lord? For The Jews, It Didn't Happen Right Away! Not Emotionally Based – Though It Did Affect Their Emotions! God Was Preparing Them – And Us – For This For 11 Chapters! Looks Back 100 Years! They Were Ready!
- In Practice! (They Were Ready)
 - 12:27a - “And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication!”
 - The Levites Had Already Been To Jerusalem Several Times!
 - To Help Build The Wall! Chapter 3!
 - To Help Teach The People! Chapter 8!
 - To Help Repopulate The City! Chapter 11!
 - Now, They Went To Their Homes To Serve Their Families!
 - But They Remained Ready To Be Called Back Into Service! And They Were!

- They Returned!
 - Hundreds – Maybe Thousands! To Re-Dedicate Themselves / Their People / City / Wall To Be Used By The Lord The Way He Originally Intended!
 - They Were Ready!
- “Dedication” - The Consecration Of Something To Be Used In The Service Of God & His People!
 - Interesting Hebrew Word - “Hanukkah!”
 - There Was A Dedication Of:
 - First Temple! Solomon!
 - Ezra’s Temple!
 - Herod’s Temple! Today’s Celebration!
 - Ready To Return & Rededicate Themselves To The Lord!
- In Purpose! (They Were Ready)
 - 12:27b - “With gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps!”
 - Dedication Is A Time Of Joy & Gladness!
 - Because Of Who The Lord Is & What He’s Done!
 - It Was A Celebration!
 - Not Of Themselves! But Of The Lord!
 - Celebrated With Their Mouths!
 - Expressed In Thanksgiving & Singing!
 - Testimonies!
 - Celebrated With Their Music!
 - For Variety & Beauty!
 - Cymbal - Percussion!
 - Psaltery - Different Lengths Of String!
 - Harp - Different Thicknesses Of String!
 - “We have read of the building of the wall of Jerusalem with a great deal of fear and trembling; we have here an account of the dedicating of it with a great deal of joy and triumph! Those that sow in tears shall thus reap!” (Matthew Henry)
- In Public! (They Were Ready)
 - Dedication Is Personal, But Never Private!
 - 12:28-29 - “And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi; / Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem!”
 - “Gathered Together!”
 - For Public Dedication! Public Praise!
 - Coming From Wherever They Were!
 - Keeping Jerusalem At Their Center!
- Having Gathered Together In Jerusalem:
 - Now They Were Ready To Re-Dedicate Themselves ALL To The Lord!
 - What We Ought To Do Every Time We Meet!
 - How Prepared Are We?
 - Are We Ready For Dedication?
 - In Practice? In Purpose? In Public?
 - Get Ready! By Focusing Attention On The Lord & Word!

2. ***There Are To Be Requirements For Dedication!***

- Only A Believer Can Re-Dedicate Themselves To The Lord!
 - So These Requirements Are For Believers! For Us!
- Requirement Of Purification!
 - 12:30 - “And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall!”
 - This Purification Was The Ceremonial Kind – But, It Did Include The Moral Kind!

- Look Where Both Companies Ended Up!
 - 12:40 - “In The House Of God!”
 - This Was Their Renewed Focus!
 - “The Walls Were — The Circumference Not The Focal Point Of The Celebrations!” (Kidner)
 - They Returned To The Lord!
 - But He Was Never Far Away! Too Often, We Leave Him!
- Where Is Our Focus?
- A Renewed Fellowship!
 - 13:40b-42 - Now, Nehemiah Lists Who Was With His Company - “And I, and the half of the rulers with me! / 41 And the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; / 42 And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer!”
 - The List Of The 2nd Company Is A Mirror Image To The List Of The 1st Company!
 - Each Company With:
 - A Thanksgiving Choir!
 - A Governor!
 - ½ Of The Princes / Officials!
 - 7 Priests With Trumpets!
 - 8 Instrumentalists & Singers!
 - 1 Musical Leader!
 - They Re-Dedicated Themselves – Together!
 - In Fellowship With Each Other & With The Lord!
 - Like The Name Of “Jezrahiah!”
 - His Name Means: “The Lord Will Shine!”
 - Isn’t This What Happens When We Are In Fellowship With Each Other!
 - Psalm 133:1 - “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
 - Where Is Our Fellowship?
- A Renewed Function!
 - 13:43a - “Also that day they offered great sacrifices!”
 - Giving Is Another Result Of Dedication!
 - Because When We Re-Dedicate Ourselves To Him, We Recognize That Everything We Have & Everything We Are Belongs To Him Anyway!
 - Do We Give In This Way?
- A Renewed Feeling!
 - Of Joy - Not Contrived, But Genuine - 13:43b - “And rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off!”
 - There Is No Greater Joy That God Can Give, Than When We Are Completely Dedicated To Him!
 - It Involved Everyone!
 - What Would Our Families & Church Be Like If This Kind Of Dedication Were To Take Place!
- These Are The Amazing Results Of Dedication To The Lord!
 - Starts & Ends With The Lord!

Conclusion:

1. **IE:** “Two men were walking by the banks of a river at the twilight hour. One of them said: “The world has yet to see what God can do with one man wholly dedicated to Him.” His companion stopped and said: “Say that again.” Again his friend repeated: “The world has yet to see what God can do with one man wholly dedicated to Him.” Lifting his hand in the twilight, Dwight L. Moody said: “By the grace of God, I will be that man.” And he went forth to do a work for God and His kingdom such as has been given to but few of His servants. Here was the reason for the great evangelist’s power. Wholly dedicated to the will of God he

was transformed and filled by the Spirit of God, and therefore empowered to do the work of God.”
(McConkey - The Surrendered Life)

2. It Is Time For Us To Re-Dedicate Ourselves To The Lord!

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