

INTRODUCTION -SECRETS OF SUCCESS IN SERVICE

In Chapters 11 and 12 we see the secrets for success in service.

I. OCCUPATION. (11:1-2)

Jerusalem was manned by the best warriors. It was planned that the princes should live there and that 10% of the people, selected by lot, should take up their residence there also.

Each one was to do his part in occupation for the glory of God.

A. We Are To Occupy For Christ! (Luke 19:13)
"Occupy"—"To busy oneself with." (Occupation)

B. We Are To Serve Faithfully!
1 Corinthians 15:58—"Therefore my beloved brethren be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

C. We Are To Use Our God-Given Gifts And Talents!
(Romans 12:3-8)

D. We Are To Redeem Present Opportunities!
Colossians 4:5—"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

Ephesians 5:14-17

II. DELEGATION.

Many were appointed to certain tasks that the work might be cared for.

- A. Overseers. (Nehemiah 11:14, 16, 22; 12:44-45)**
- B. Music Direction. (Nehemiah 11:22-23)**
- C. Praise and Worship. (Nehemiah 11:17; 12:24)**
- D. Doorkeepers and Gatekeepers. (11:19, 12:25) (Psalm 84:10)**

OCCUPATION, DELEGATION...

III. DEDICATION. (Nehemiah 12:27-43)

This day of dedication was when they gave God the glory for His ministry among them.

A. Dedication In Goal And Motive! (vs 27)

- 1. They dedicated with gladness!
- 2. They dedicated with music!

B. Dedication In Purity And Holiness! (vs 30-31, 38, 40, 42)

- 1. Their joy was not just skin deep!
- 2. Their dedication was not an empty, superficial thing. It was with depth of heart and being!
- 3. They first sanctified themselves; set themselves apart with absolute sincerity and with intensity of purpose!

1 Thessalonians 5:23—"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly..."

- 4. God demands holiness and complete dedication of body, soul and spirit!
- 5. God must have our best!
 He desires a clean vessel! *(2 Timothy 2:19-21)*

C. Dedication Unto God! (12:43)

- 1. **The walls had been built in fear, trembling, and in great sacrifice!**
 Now was an occasion to dedicate unto God with joy and in victory.
- 2. They were putting the city under God's care acknowledging Him as Lord!
 Their labour was in vain unless God blessed!

3. So great was the joy of that day that their sound was heard afar off!
1 Thessalonians 1:7-9 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;
4. Their sacrifice was great that day!

CONCLUSION

Full dedication and full surrender is what God wants!

Not the leftovers of our lives, but our best and our all!

Our consecration must be complete, holding back nothing!

Our dedication must be evident in our personal lives, our homes, our businesses, and our Church!

Too often our dedication is but half-hearted, and incomplete!

Romans 12:1-2 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

INTRODUCTION - THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE

To be **vigilant** means "to be alertly watchful to danger or trouble."

Vigilance is necessary to stand against the inroads of sin and wrong in our

lives and to stand against the attacks of our adversary, the devil!

1 Peter 5:8-9 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

God wants His children to be vigilant!

Failure to be vigilant in our lives can cause us to fall into sin!

(Exp--Noah, Abraham, Lot, David, Demas)

In Nehemiah 13 we see that Nehemiah had left and gone to the Persian court as he had told the King he would do in Chapter 2!

Twelve years had lapsed between the events of chapter 12 when the walls were dedicated and the events of chapter 13!

In this period of time the people had slipped grievously from the covenant they made in chapters 10 and 11!

Nehemiah had to face them with their transgressions and their failure to be vigilant!

I. THERE IS A NEED TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT SEPARATION!

Separation from sin is set forth in many various ways in the Word of God! It is seen by example innumerable times in the Old Testament! God called the Israelites to be a separated people! They were to be His peculiar, particular treasure according to **Exodus 19:4-6!**

A. Separation Was Based Upon God's Command! (13:1-3)

B. Separation Is Still Based Upon God's Command!

1. We Are Not Of This World! (John 15:16-21)

2. We Are A Chosen People! (1 Peter 2:9)

3. **We Are Indwelt By God! (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)**
4. **We Are To "Love Not" The World! (1 John 2:15-16)**

II. THERE IS A NEED TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT JUDGING SIN!

A. Leadership Had Compromised With The Enemy! (13:4-5)

The very enemy who had opposed their building the wall was comfortably housed in the very courts of God!

What an alliance with evil we see here!
The enemy was strongly entrenched in Jerusalem!

B. Nehemiah Discovered This On His Return! (13:6-9)

C. We Must Judge Sin!

1. **It Must Be "Put Off"! (Colossians 3:8-10)**
2. **It Must Be "Put To Death"! (Colossians 3:5)**
3. **It Must Be "Judged"! (1 Corinthians 11:31-32)**

III. WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT THE HOUSE OF GOD!

A. The Glaring Failure About The House Of God! (13:10-14)

B. The Glaring Failure About The Day Of God! (13:15-22)

Cf. 10:39 – "...we will not forsake the House of our God."

C. The Glaring Lack Today!

1. **Many Don't Obey The Example! (Acts 2:41-42)**
2. **Many Don't Obey The Command! (Hebrews 10:25)**
3. **Many Don't Obey The Teaching!**
(1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

IV. WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT UNHOLY ALLIANCES!

A. The Problem Stated. (vs 23-24)

God is greatly grieved when His own (the saved) intermarry with the unsaved!

This is possibly the worst of all unholy alliances!

Marriage is to be "in the Lord!"
It is a sacred bond before a holy God!

Cf 10:28-30

B. The Problem Examined. (vs 26-28)

C. The Problem Handled. (vs 25, 29-31)

CONCLUSION

We need to be vigilant:

- About Separation!
- About Judging Sin!
- About The House Of God!
- About Unholy Alliances!