

## **God Does His Work Through Faithful Willing People**

### **Nehemiah has a voluntary draft to obtain the workers.**

God never makes anyone do anything. He desires a willing heart.

Nehemiah 11:1 And the rulers of the people dwelled at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts to dwell in other cities. 2 And the people blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

God calls everyone to do something. How have you responded?

### **God's Mercy Allows Him To Work Through Sinful People's Past**

Nehemiah 11:6 All the sons of Perez that dwelled at Jerusalem were four hundred three score and eight valiant men.

Perez was one of the sons of Judah, (tribe of Judah). The story of his birth, in Genesis 38, is a rather lengthy, shameful account. Yet 400 years later, Perez is regarded as one of the heroes of the nation.

The tribe of Benjamin provided twice as many men from this small tribe as those from the larger tribe of Judah. The shameful history of Benjamin is given us in the book of Judges, 19 & 20.

It tells of a shameful story of people who fell into horrible sexual sin. It was a terrible disgrace and stain on the life of Israel, but two important men came from the tribe of Benjamin: Saul, the first king of Israel, and Saul of Tarsus, we know him better as the Apostle Paul.

This fact of God using these shameful histories teaches a great principle:

### **God is no respecter of persons.**

God can cleanse people and use them (us) in mighty and wonderful ways. He often chooses, we are told, the obscure, the once tainted, the perceived rejects of life. God loves to pick up people and do wonderful, unexpected things with them.

### **People Are Needed For The Work In Jerusalem Also in the Church Today**

#### **They needed Priests**

They "carried on work for the temple." Nehemiah 11:12b

These were the normally officiating priests who offered sacrifices, presented offerings, and performed the ritual that Moses had prescribed.

For the church today, that corresponding group is Preachers & Teachers, a group of men and women who are gifted in helping people to understand the meaning of the great sacrifice of Jesus.

### **They needed Counselors**

He called them “heads of families.” Nehemiah 11:13b They had a ministry of counseling families, of working out problems and dealing with difficulties in the families of the priests.

For the church today, that corresponding group is counselors, who are especially gifted in helping families understand the difficulties they are passing through and what Godly answers there may be for them.

### **They needed Warriors**

Certain priests were also warriors. Nehemiah 11:14b

For the church today, that group would be those who especially serve as prayer warriors, and in guarding the flock from the invasion of wrong doctrines, spiritual attack.

### **They needed Practical Workers**

“The caretakers of the outside of the house of God” Neh 11:16b

For the church today, it is men and women who are in charge of various details and needs, to take care of buildings and to minister to the poor and the needy.

### **They needed Musicians**

The musicians, those who played the instruments. Music in the church is not for entertainment. It is a means by which we are strengthened, fed, and helped.

### **They needed Gatekeepers and Troubleshooters**

Nehemiah 11:19-24 They correspond, of course, to the ministry of ushers who watch the doors. They who look out for people and serve them as they come to church. They welcome them, and help them find their seats. People serve in everyday life this way also, helping diffuse situations, including gossip.

### **The Kind of People Needed For The Work (then & now)**

Nehemiah 13:13b “for they were counted faithful” There is a priest, a scribe, a Levite, and a layman. All four represent various aspects of the life of Israel and share one great quality: They were faithful men. 1 Corinthians 4:2

Nehemiah had gone back to Persia and had now returned. In his absence, there was a problem with unfaithful leaders.

### **The Unfaithful Leaders Had Contaminated The Temple**

So I rebuked the officials and asked them, “Why is the house of God neglected?” Nehemiah 13:11b

An Ammonite, a direct enemy of Israel and his family, were actually living in the temple of God, contrary to the Law of Moses; and in order to permit that they had deliberately taken away the place for the Levite priest and their provisions.

For us today it is a clear picture of our struggle with our flesh. **This shows us that we must take a strong stand against evil, against sin in ourselves.** We must be prepared to be drastic and take often painful action to clear up the things that are wrong in our own affairs.

**God desires to use us—fallen, sinful creatures, but we must be willing to follow His guidelines, regardless of the cost. He will help you & bless you.**