

The Holy City
Nehemiah 11:1-12:26

Review

1. All the names and genealogies in this passage remind us that we are part of God's great family of faith, which exists throughout space and time
2. It was important to repopulate Jerusalem because it was the center of God's worship
3. The people who were chosen to move into the city were worthy of honor because they gave up their homes, their extended families and their livelihood so that God might be worshipped in the proper way
4. The people who moved into Jerusalem humbled themselves not only before God and their leaders but before the rest of the people, as they depended on the visits and offerings of the worshippers for their livelihood
5. The people who moved into Jerusalem modeled the character of Christ, who left a perfect life in Heaven to move into our sinful, broken world, and who humbled Himself before God and His people so that they might be saved.

Go further – Read Mark 10:17-45

1. In verse 17, what is the young man's question to Jesus?
2. In verse 18, Jesus asks him a question in response. What is He trying to get the young man to understand about Him?
3. In verse 19, Jesus quotes part of the Ten Commandments to the young man. Why do you think He includes only these commandments?
4. How does the young man's confident response in verse 20 reveal His spiritual condition?
5. What does Jesus challenge the young man to do in verse 21? How is this similar to what the people of Nehemiah's generation did when they moved into Jerusalem?
6. What is the connection between giving up all we have and following Jesus?
7. In verse 23, Jesus says it is hard for wealthy people to enter the Kingdom of God. Why do you think this is true?
8. In verse 25, Jesus uses the striking image of a camel trying to get through the eye of a needle. What is He telling us with this picture?
9. In verse 24, the disciples were amazed at what Jesus has said because they had been taught that wealth was a sign of God's blessing and favor on people. How does this explain their question in verse 26?
10. How could verse 27 make people lose their hope of salvation? How should verse 27 instead give us great assurance of salvation?
11. In verse 28, what does Peter say he and the rest of the disciples have done? How is this similar to what the people of Nehemiah's day did when they moved into Jerusalem? Given what James and John asked Him in verse 37, do you think Peter's statement is true?
12. Given what Jesus says in verse 42, what do you think the disciples really wanted? In verses 43-44, what does Jesus say they should do instead?
13. In verse 45, what example does Jesus say He is setting for us?
14. How does Jesus explain this sacrifice in more detail in verses 33 and 34?
15. In verses 30 and 31, what does Jesus say His disciples can expect to receive in this world? What can we expect in the next world?

Apply:

1. How can we avoid putting too much emphasis on our material things, as the rich young man did?
2. In what ways can we put into practice in our own lives the example of the people who moved into Jerusalem, and the example of Christ Himself?
3. How does the sacrifice of Christ both assure us and challenge us?