

“Rededication”
Nehemiah 10:1-39
5/25/25
Message 9

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Rededication”

- **Illustration – Wiersbe**

- In a certain church, there was a man who always ended his prayers with,
 - “And, Lord, Clean the cobwebs out of my life!
- Another, members of the church
 - Became weary of hearing this same insincere request week after week,
 - Because he saw no change in his life.
- So, the next time he heard the man pray,
 - “Lord, clean the cobwebs out of my life!”
 - He interrupted with, “And while you’re at it, Lord, kill the spider!”

- **In Chapter 9**

- Israel makes a bold PRAYER in Chapter 9
 - BUT will they Follow Through with that Bold Prayer
 - Or will it just be another...
 - Empty Prayer
 - Empty promise

- Now Before see that answer – let me ask you...

- **Some Questions to ask Ourselves**

- **1st What is Our Word Worth?**

- Our

- Promises
- Commitment
- Pledge

- **When we say we will...?**

- What do others think?
 - Do they BANK ON IT?
 - Or do they BET ON IT?
 - What do I mean by that?
 - Bank – Yes they will be on Time
 - Bet – How late will they be... 10, 20, 30 minutes late...

- **2nd What would Others say about Our Commitment to Jesus!?**

- They are COMMITTED CHRISTIAN

- Committed to their Faith
- Committed to their Beliefs
- Sold out for Jesus

- OR Do they see right through you and wonder
 - They see your faith as something you pick up and set down
- The Lord is looking for Disciples
 - Those who are going to be sold out –
 - Committed to following close at all times
 - Illustration
 - Stepping into the pool or taking the plunge

• **Review – A Running Start**

- **God Judged Israel for the Years of Rebellion**
 - 1st The Northern Kingdom FELL
 - 2nd The Southern Kingdom FELL
- **The Return**
 - 3 Main Parts to the return
- **Chapter 1-6 – Rebuilding The WALL**
 - Chapter 1 - Nehemiah – “A Burden & Prayer”
 - Chapter 2 – “The Good Hand of My God Upon Me”
 - Chapter 3 “Let US Rise Up And Build”
 - Chapter 4 “Workers and Warriors”
 - Chapter 5 “Resolving Conflicts Within”
 - Chapter 6 “Doing a Great Work”

- **Chapters 7-13 - Restoring the People**

- **We move from Rebuilding the Walls / CITY**

- To Rebuilding the PEOPLE – Spiritually

- **Chapter 7-8 The Priority Of God's Word**

- Ch 7 - Will focus on 3 Types of People

- Godly Leaders
- Active People – Those with a Pioneer Spirit
- Givers - Those with a heart to Give!

- Ch 8 - Their Return to GOD / His Word

- Expository Teaching Seen in the Text

- R – Read The Word
- E – Explain The Word
- A – Apply The Word
- L – Live The Word

- **Chapter 9 – God's Amazing Grace seen in Revival**

- God's GRACE Seen In Their Repentance vv. 1-5
- God's GRACE Is Seen As The Creator Of Everything v. 6
- God's GRACE Is Seen In His Calling Us Out To Be His People vv. 7-8
- God's GRACE Is Seen As The Deliverer From Sin And Its Enslavement vv. 9-12
- God's GRACE Is Seen In His Providential Care vv. 13-15
- God's GRACE Is Seen In His Patience And Forgiveness vv. 16-21
- God's GRACE Is Seen In The Victories He Brought Them vv. 22-25
- God's GRACE Is Seen In His CHASTENING vv. 26-31

- God's GRACE Is Seen In His Restoration vv. 32-38

- **Now Here in Nehemiah Chapter 10**

- **The people are making a commitment to be SOLD OUT – Taking the Plunge**

- We saw in our study last time that God was moving amongst His people

- They Confession

- Looked Back at how Faithful God is and how unfaithful they were and are!!!

- **This Resulted in a time of REDEDICATION and RECOMMITMENT to the Lord**

- They re-established their Covenant with the Lord

Nehemiah 9:38 (NKJV)

38 “And because of all this, We make a sure covenant and write it; Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it.”

- **Now This Morning - We Will look at 2 POWERFUL TRUTHS to Rededication**

- The Dedication Was Made Public vv. 1-27
- A Strong Decision Was Made to Obey vv. 28-39

The Dedication Was Made Public vv. 1-27

- **First: Verses 1-27**

- **Tell us the names of those who placed their seal on Document**

- Those who Professed their agreement with a PUBLIC STAND
 - A public covenant meant accountability.
- 1st Nehemiah and the priests signed the covenant vv. 1-8

- Nehemiah is at the top of the list
- 2nd The Levites who signed the covenant vv. 9-13
- 3rd The civic leaders who signed the covenant vv. 14-27

A Strong Decision Was Made to Obey vv. 28-39

• First: Promise Not To Intermarry vv. 28-30

- **1st Now the rest of the people v. 28**

Nehemiah 10:28 (NKJV)

28 Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding—

- **The 84 people mentioned previously sealed the covenant**
 - But NOW the REST of the people –
 - That is, everyone who had knowledge and understanding
 - Also made the covenant with God
- **Nethinim –**
 - These were temple servants, descendants of the Gibeonites
 - Who performed servant duties at the temple.
 - Who had separated themselves.
 - These are those who
 - 1st Had followed the demand of Ezra and Nehemiah to divorce pagan spouses

- 2nd Had been left in the Land but never joined themselves to any heathen, thus remaining separate.

○ **2nd Entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law v. 29**

Nehemiah 10:29 (NKJV)

29 these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:

▪ **In making the covenant**

- They agreed to accept a Curse from God
 - If they did not obey His Law.
 - They accepted the curse as a form of His correction
 - To bring them back to obedience.
- Covenants in the OT
 - Characteristically were sealed by an oath ceremony
 - In which the parties swore to the terms of the covenant.
 - The slaughtering of an animal indicated similar consequences for the covenant breaker.
 - Israel's pledged adherence to the law was thus solemnly affirmed.

▪ **Application**

- Our Covenant with God is with Jesus –

- Who took Our Curse
- Our relationship is based on
 - GRACE – NOT PERFORMANCE
 - BUT God wants us to respond to His GRACE
 - To live WORTHY of the calling
- BUT some of us have PRAYED a similar thing...
 - We didn't pray
 - "God, curse me if I disobey You."
 - But many of us have prayed...
 - Lord, whatever it takes I want to follow You.
 - Whatever it takes BREAK ME of my sinful ways
 - That is essentially praying the same thing, and that is a good prayer.
- **3rd We Would Not Give v. 30**

Nehemiah 10:30 (NKJV)

30 We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;

- **Their first area of decision**
 - To be Faithful to God NOT to Intermarry
 - We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land
 - Nor take their daughters for our sons

- Parents controlled marriages
 - So this part of the covenant came from them.
- If this covenant were to be repeated today
 - It wouldn't be focused on the parents, but on the individuals who wanted to get married.

▪ **What Does Intermarry Mean**

- For Israel
 - They were NOT to marry anyone from another nation – Because they were pagan

Exodus 34:16 (NKJV)

16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

Deuteronomy 7:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

1 Kings 11:3 (NKJV)

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

- CLARITY
 - This is about being SPIRITUALLY connected with the right person
 - NOT ABOUT THE RACE of People
- Understand The Importance of Marriage

Malachi 2:14 (NKJV)

14 Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

- Your wife by covenant
 - *Marriage is a covenant, between the husband and wife, between them and all family and witnesses, but most importantly, between them and God.*
 - *When we understand marriage as a covenant, we have something to bind us together that is stronger than society’s expectations, more constant than romantic love, and more certain than happy times – we have a covenant*
- The MOST Important relationship a man and woman can enter into
 - You best be on the same page with God
- **4th Application - We Will Protect Our Convictions with Marriage & Faithful Friends**
 - **1st For The Believer**
 - The New Testament – Don’t be unequally Yoked in marriage
 - Again, Nothing to do with RACE
 - **2nd Surround Yourself with People of the same mind**
 - Again - To be unequally yoked with the world

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- **3rd Surround yourself with people who have made that same commitment**

- **Spiritually if we want to excel**

- Being with God's People to help grow

- Be at CHURCH

- **4th Lessons to Live by**

- Choosing Friends Wisely

Proverbs 12:26 (NKJV)

26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

- This means being discerning about the influence someone has on your life and your faith

- Friendly with EVERYONE

- Friends with only those who are seeking to grow in Christ

- Remember The Impact of Company

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NKJV)

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

- Friendships with those living in ways that contradict Christian faith

- Creates challenges...

- Building Strong Relationships with Other believer

- Positive influences to keep me on the narrow path

- Helping us to resist harmful ideas and practices.
- Accountability and Encouragement:
 - ONLY a believer this

• **Second: Promise To Not Do Business On The Sabbath v. 31**

- **1st If the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell v. 31**

Nehemiah 10:31 (NKJV)

31 if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.

- Under the Old Testament law – Keep The Sabbath Holy

Exodus 20:8 (NKJV)

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

- Every 7th Day was the Sabbath (Saturday)
 - Israel was instructed to rest and worship God
 - God said that no one should work, buy or sell anything on the Sabbath day
 - Illustrated

- by the Mana in the Wilderness

- Also - Under The Law they had a Sabbath Years

Leviticus 25:2–7 (NKJV)

***2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD.
3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit;***

*4 but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.
5 What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land.
6 And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you,
7 for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food.*

- Israel Failed
 - The motive for breaking this law was clear.
 - They could make More Money selling on seven days of the week instead of six days.
- The Warning from God about the Sabbath Year

Leviticus 26:34–35 (NKJV)

*34 Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its sabbaths.
35 As long as it lies desolate it shall rest—for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.*

Leviticus 26:43 (NKJV)

43 The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.

- The Judgment From God
 - Israel failed to observe the Sabbath Year for 490 years
 - So they owed God 70 years back Sabbath years
 - This failure resulted in the 70-year Babylonian exile.

- During this exile, the land of Israel was allowed to rest and enjoy the Sabbath years that were previously neglected.

Jeremiah 25:11–12 (NKJV)

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

12 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

Jeremiah 29:10 (NKJV)

10 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

- **2nd Application - Compromise is Contagious**
 - **1st The more you Compromise the easier it gets**
 - The idea that they could make more money if they don't honor God
 - Is Still true today
 - Just remember the more we compromise to gain something in this world the easier it gets
 - **And they less likely that we will take God seriously**
 - **2nd The Sabbath is a Good Principle for us**
 - Now we are not required to keep THE SABBATH
 - But the concept of keeping a Sabbath is still one that is wise!
 - A Day of REST and Seeking after God
 - Set up boundaries to protect

- Your walk with Jesus
- For your Family
- A day set aside to seek the Lord
- A day set aside to relax and reflect with my family.
- The Commitment
 - Nothing is going to pull me away from this
 - *Guzik; “This is a great challenge for the church today, when many are in careers where they have the opportunity to make money in ways that are wrong in God’s sight. We need to have the same heart they had here, and covenant before God to only make money in ways that are obedient and glorifying to Him.*
 - *“Many of us – as was true in Nehemiah’s day – slip into these practices subtly. We don’t wake up in the morning saying we’re going to cut corners, cheat others, and defraud the system. We do it because we think we need to – bills need to be paid, the kids need things, and so on. Then we do it because it works. But we don’t really need to; if we trust God, He will take care of us. We should never trust our slick ways of doing business more than we trust God in heaven.”*
 - Illustration
 - I personally did this in 1995
- **REMEMBER - The World PULL Will NEVER END**
 - MORE, MORE, MORE, they scream

- How many can remember a time when everything was closed on Sunday's?
 - Now Sunday's are just another day to the heaths in our culture
 - This is an attack from Satan
 - And a test for believers
- Don't listen
 - Test the LORD on THIS
 - Like Daniel
 - Set aside the Sabbath – Set Boundaries
 -
 - God will bless

• **Third: Promise To Give Support To The Work Of God vv. 32-34**

- **1st To exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God vv. 32-34**

Nehemiah 10:32–34 (NKJV)

32 *Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:*

33 *for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.*

34 *We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as it is written in the Law.*

- They laid down a Yearly Tax
 - To support the workings of the temple.

- They required people to bring wood to the temple on a rotating basis.
- **2nd Application - The things that you believe in, you will invest in**
 - Christians to make similar commitments - to invest in spiritual things –
 - Israel said
 - We will not neglect the house of our God:
 - The Same should be said of us
 - We should support the church that is feeding and caring for our souls
 - 1st Giving Our Time - By being PART of the Body – (1 Cor.12)
 - 2nd Giving Our Resources to God
 - Simply said,
 - The Bible says we need to be givers.
 - Not so much for the sake of those we give to
 - BUT because
 - Giving sets our heart right about material things.
 - God Himself is the greatest giver.
 - Something happens to us when we do

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)

19 *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

20 *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- Your heart is going to be in that thing that you have made your treasure
- Track your treasure – to know where your heart is at
 - *The Great Evangelist DL MOODY – “I can know more about a man by looking at his Checkbook than his Prayer book”*

• **NT Giving**

1 Corinthians 16:1–4 (NKJV)

1 *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:*

2 *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

3 *And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.*

4 *But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.*

- That giving should be
 - Regular
 - Planned
 - Proportional
 - Private
- That it must be generous, freely and cheerfully given (2 Corinthians 9)

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NKJV)

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- **Fourth: Promise To Give Your First Fruits vv. 35-39**

- **1st We Made an Ordinance vv. 35-39**

Nehemiah 10:35–39 (NKJV)

35 And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD;

36 to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;

37 to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.

38 And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.

39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

- **First: Context**

- Their Sacrifice was called in the OT their First fruits

- Illustrated

- What does that mean well a farmer would plant a seed

- The seed goes into the soil

- The farmer spends years cultivating – watering pulling weeds
- That seed starts to grow and after another couple of years it turns into a tree after another year or so – it finally brings forth fruit
- Here's what they would do
- They would take that first patch of fruit from that tree
- The first harvest of their field and give it to the Lord
- After ALL their hard work instead of enjoying the fruit – they gave it to the Lord
- That is what the Lord asked for

○ **2nd Application – Make Sure God has your BEST**

▪ **1st What Giving our First Fruits Does**

- **1st Lord we realize that what we have is from you.**
 - Your blessing on my life / family

James 1:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

- **2nd Lord I am going to trust you to provide for us in the future.**
 - Giving you the first fruits / first crop –
 - Trusting that you are going to provide a 2nd and a 3rd and a 4th

- **3rd TEMPTATION We ALL struggle with**

- Will give God the leftovers

- **2nd What this looks like today**

- **1st We make a mistake when we say God is First place in my life**

- Really God is ONLY place in my life
- He doesn't just get a PART - HE GET THE WHOLE
- ALL of MY TIME, TALENT, RESOURCES, EVERYTHING IS HIS

- **2nd SO LIVE for Jesus**

- Prioritizing God in my life
 - Seeking God's Kingdom
 - Seeking His kingdom and righteousness before all else
 - God's will over personal desires
 - Focusing on HIM
 - Prayer and Bible study
 - Making time for regular prayer and the study of scripture
 - Stay connect with God and learn His will.
 - Knowing Jesus and Making Him Know

- Be Salt & Light in this dark world
- Living a life of service
 - Jesus came to serve – so should we
- Living a life of integrity and honesty
 - Striving to be truthful and honest in all aspects of their lives.
- Forgiving Others
 - As you have been forgiven
- A strong work ethic
 - Working diligently and responsibly, demonstrating a Christian work ethic.
- Resisting temptations and sin
 - Keep your heart pure
 - Confess SINS
- LIVE ONLY TO PLEASE HIM

Closing

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*