

Nehemiah 12:27-47

Things to Celebrate in Nehemiah:

- Nehemiah got permission from Artaxerxes.
- Nehemiah had a plan to rebuild.
- Nehemiah energized a dispirited people.
- Nehemiah overcame tremendous obstacles.
- Nehemiah completed the wall in 5 days.
- Nehemiah encouraged a revival in Israel.
- Nehemiah successfully repopulated the city.

These were genuine reasons for a celebration. Even the celebration included planning and specific things:

I. Purification

Nehemiah cited that the priests and Levites go through _____. What would have been the greatest obstacle to their worship? It is the same for us today. Psalm 24:4 states that the one who enters the presence of God must do so with _____ and a _____. During Jesus' day, the pharisees appeared to be the most holy of all people but Jesus had another opinion. I wonder if the evangelical church has gone so far that we do not see worship as an encounter with the Holy God of Heaven?

II. Music

You note in our passage that music played a significant role in the celebration, including instruments. For centuries there has been debate about their usage. The focus of our singing must be God and His Glory.

III. Gratitude

The celebration was exuberant and joyful. Just like someone who has been greatly forgiven tends to offer that forgiveness quickly and fully, someone who understands the being of God, His grace and mercy, will be filled with gratitude.

IV. Giving

This trait always accompanies people who are committed to worship and gratitude for God. These Israelites understood their giving went beyond the legal requirement of 10%.

Each of these things was done in community....