

# Nehemiah: Servant to the King

## “When God Makes His People Glad”

### Nehemiah 12:27-13:3



Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, April 7, 2013

#### Introduction:

##### **The Significance of the Dedication:**

The wall symbolized the beginning of a new era of worship, for the worship of God had been absent for years! *Scripture: Hebrews 13:14-16*

##### **The Spirit of the Dedication:** Wholehearted celebration of God!

- Gladness = Exceeding happiness, joy or delight.
- Thanksgiving = Expression of gratitude
- Singing = Holistic expression of joy

*Scripture: Psalm 92:4*

##### **The Preparation for the Dedication** (v. 27-42)

- Leadership with a clear sense of purpose. (27, 31-42)
- Musicians with songs to sing. (v. 28-29, *Psalm 137:1-6*)
- Priests purifying the people and place. (v. 12:30, *1 John 1:9*)

## When God Made His People Glad...

### 1. God's People jubilantly rejoiced in the works of God. (12:43)

- The worship was profound.
  - *Just as sin flows out of a heart overwhelmed by sinful desire, rejoicing and thanksgiving flow out of a heart overwhelmed by God!*
- The worship was personal.
  - God designed each person to uniquely proclaim His worship.
- The worship was powerful.
  - *A man or woman who is genuinely joyful in Christ will be a beacon of light in a dark, complaining, unthankful world. (Philippians 2:14-15; 4:4)*

## 2. God's people joyfully served in the work of God. (12:44-46)

- When you find great delight in someone or something you gladly give everything to it.

## 3. God's people gladly gave to the work of God. (12:47)

- "All Israel" gave. This tells us that the giving was both personal and proportional.
- Your giving is a revealing expression of your thankfulness to God.

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:12

## 4. God's people humbly obeyed the Word of God. (13:1-3)

- Intermarriage allowed the deadly influences of idolatrous cultures to infiltrate the hearts of the people of God.
- Two principles regarding the Word of God in worship:
  - a) When the Word of God ceases to be central to the worship of God, then worship of God turns to idolatry (worshipping a god of our own making).
  - b) When the Word of God is central to the worship service, but not to the worship of the saints, they have set up knowledge as their god. (John 4:23-24; 14:23)

**God wants us to KNOW Him and to DELIGHT in HIM,  
but too often we settle for DELIGHTING in KNOWING  
ABOUT Him.**

### **Conclusion:**

Consider all that you have in Christ.

What stands in the way of your whole-hearted response of gladness?