

What's YOUR Gift?

Nehemiah 11:1-36

I. Jerusalem repopulated once the wall is finished

- A. A New List
 - 1. As significant as the others
 - 2. Two questions
 - a. What does this list reveal?
 - b. Why is this list important?
- B. What does this list reveal?
 - 1. Jerusalem repopulated once the wall is finished
 - 2. Risks of repopulating
 - a. Target for Opposition
 - b. Not available for tending own lands
 - c. Trapped, if another siege
 - 3. List of Jerusalem residents
 - a. Some by lot
 - b. Some by volunteer
 - c. List of names and traits
 - 4. Personal Character Traits
 - a. Specific traits
 - (1) v. 6 "Valiant men"
 - (2) v. 8 "men of valor"
 - (3) v. 12 "Men who did the work [of the house of God]"
 - (4) v. 13 heads of father's houses
 - (5) v. 14 mighty men of valor
 - (6) v. 16 chiefs of the Levites who were over the outside work of the house of God
 - (7) v. 19 men "who kept watch at the gates"
 - (8) v. 24 one who "was at the king's side in all matters concerning the people"
 - b. Summary
 - (1) Valiant men
 - (2) Religious men
 - (3) Ruling men
 - (4) Maintenance men
 - (5) Diligent men
 - (6) Representative men
- C. **Why is this list important?**
 - 1. **God supplies His people with the human resources required for their success!**
 - a. Conditions
 - (1) Small population
 - (2) Weak economy
 - (3) Hostile environment
 - b. **God keeps His promise to rebuild His people so they can spread the knowledge of His glory.**
 - 2. What's so important about that?
 - a. What's that got to do with us?

- b. God repopulated Jerusalem and the surrounding region of Judah and Benjamin demonstrates
 - (1) God's commitment to filling the earth with the knowledge of His glory through a people called and blessed by Him
 - (2) God's commitment to provide His people with the resources to succeed as they carry out His mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory
 - (a) God's mission is to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory (**Hab 2:14**)
 - (b) The mission of the church is to go out into all the world to make disciples (**Mat 28:19-20**)
 - (c) We participate in God's mission by fulfilling our mission
 - (d) **God gives what is necessary for us to succeed in our mission to fulfill His mission!**

II. How does God provide the church today with the resources for our spiritual success as participant's in God's mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory?

A. God provides spiritual resources for the success of the church's mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

- 1. Salvation through Jesus Christ:
 - a. A changed heart wills and loves to live for God rather than self
 - b. A changed heart through faith in Jesus
 - (1) **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
 - (2) A new heart, nature, will, outlook, expectation, new understanding of the world and our role in it
 - (a) Once all about us and our striving to make our world conform to our wishes
 - (b) Now, through faith, the world exists to know and love God in all His glory and we live to see that happen
- 2. Instruction through the Word of God
- 3. Empowerment through the Holy Spirit
 - a. **Acts 1:8 (ESV)** ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
 - b.

B. God provides human resources for the success of the church's mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

- 1. Spiritual gifts
 - a. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (ESV)** ⁴ *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;* ⁵ *and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;* ⁶ *and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.* ⁷ *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* ⁸ *For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,* ⁹ *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,* ¹⁰ *to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish*

between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ *All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

- b. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good
 - (1) To each is given
 - (2) For the common good
 - c. Just as God gave the people in Jerusalem what they needed to spread the knowledge of the glory of the Lord to the nations in their time and place
God gives His people in the church what they need to succeed in their mission to make disciples and fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory
2. Permission (Command) to put these gifts to work in the church's mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

III. How Can We Use Our Gifts in the Mission of God to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord?

A. Identify your spiritual gift

B. Commit to using your spiritual gift to spread the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

- 1. In your own life
- 2. In your church and family
- 3. In your community
- 4. In the world

C. Explore avenues for action (no door is closed)

- 1. "See, I have set before you an open door which no man can shut."
 - a. Door for ministry
 - b. Door for opportunity
 - c. Door for faithfulness
- 2. Cornerstone and Other Needs
 - a. Facility maintenance
 - b. Mission support
 - c. Ministry practice
 - (1) Teachers
 - (2) Visitors (Compassion Ministry)
 - (3) Nursery and children's ministry
 - (4) Worship leaders