

Neh 12 – **It Takes A Village – Neh 7:1-73**

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NO – I'm **NOT** quoting - a Former **President's wife**
It's *actually* an old **African Proverb**

But it **DOES** appropriately convey - the heart of **Neh Ch 7**

What I mean by it is – it takes **EVERY ONE of us**
to **make** the **ministry** work

It takes EVERY ONE of us;

to **BUILD** the Wall of Testimony – &
to **CONTINUE** the Work of God *after* the wall is built

It takes **EVERY** single one of us

& so – **Neh CH 7** lists **49,942 people** that it **TOOK**
to **Reestablish** the **Worship of God** in Jerusalem

We're about to read a **CH** of the Bible that *most teachers*
SKIP OVER – because it's *just* a **List of Names**

But **these** are the **names** of the Families that **REBUILT**
the **Worship of God** in Jerusalem - & **THAT** is a **HUGE** deal !!

Every one of these family names **MATTERS** to God
Just like **EVERY** Family in **THIS** ministry **MATTERS** to God

So **Let's Pray** - & we'll try to meet ALL **50,000** of them

I'd like to thank **Mark Driscoll** (Seattle)
for having the **courage** to teach this Ch *with Passion*

Because (as I said) **most** of the Scholars I normally **listen** to & **read** – just **SKIPPED** this entire Ch

OK - Last week – **THE WALL WAS FINISHED**

The title of the msg was **“In This Way . . . “**

& we looked at the **Path** – the **Process** – that Nehemiah & the people took – in order to **finish** the building of the **Wall**

& it was Absolutely **Miraculous** – Just **52 incredible Days** to **rebuild the Wall** around Jerusalem

But today Nehemiah **DOES** what **every** Ministry Leader eventually **LEARNS**

& *that is* – that there is **No Real FINISH** to the work of God **as long** as we’re still on **this earth**

When the Bible talks about **Finishing the Race – Reaching the Prize** **ALL** those things refer to **HEAVEN** - & **Eternity**

In this life – **Everything** we do for God is a **STEP** – upon which **ANOTHER STEP** is taken **in the overall plan of God**

& so **today** we see Nehemiah **Immediately** take the **NEXT STEP** **after** the Wall was finished

& we’re *going to see* **HOW MANY** People & how many **TYPES** of **PEOPLE** – it actually **TOOK**

to **RESTORE** the Worship of God in Jerusalem

& then **next week** – we’ll actually **SEE** that *Worship of God* begin & **THAT** is something to **look forward** to

Now – **Before** we just Dive Into the **Jerusalem Phonebook** here

let me give you a list of the different **TYPES** of people
who were **ALL** required – to make the **Worship of God happen**

Here are **SOME** of the different **ROLES** that were filled by the people

Household Servants

Temple Servants

Heads of Households

Family Leaders (multi-generational)

Guards

Gatekeepers

Singers

Nobles

Officials

Levites

Priests

an Army Commander

a Governor

& finally – Nehemiah himself

That's **FOURTEEN** different **ROLES** (positions)
that we'll see in this **CH**

ALL of which were Required to **RESTORE** Worship in Jerusalem

And **we** **EASILY** have 14 different **ROLES** or **POSITIONS**
here in this ministry

ALL of which are Required to **Build & Maintain** a place
where **people** can Worship God **HERE** in Nuevo
& *around the country thru Word-By-Mail*

& **if you** have **committed** your life to Jesus Christ
if you consider yourself part of the **Family** of God today

then God has given **YOU** a **Position** – a **Role**
a **Place** to serve Him – **within** the Body of Christ

& it's very **important** that you find your **Position** or **Role**
& then **begin** to serve God there

Because - **#1)** You were made to **Serve & Worship** God
#2) The **Work of God** needs **EVERY ONE** of us
to Accomplish what God has called us to

Alright – **let's read** the opening paragraph of **Neh CH 7**
then we'll talk about the **people** & the **roles** listed here

Neh 7:1-3 – NLT

1 After the wall was finished and I had set up the doors in the gates, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed.

2 I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.

3 I said to them, “Do not leave the gates open [should be EXCEPT] during the hottest part of the day. And even while the gatekeepers are on duty, have them shut and bar the doors. Appoint the residents of Jerusalem to act as guards, everyone on a regular watch. Some will serve at sentry posts and some in front of their own homes.”

1st – **SEE** that Nehemiah becomes the **Orchestrator** (Conductor) here

He **APPOINTS** Gatekeepers, Singers, & Levites

He **GIVES** the responsibility of **Governing** Jerusalem
to **two** highly qualified men (*Brother & Commander*)

He **GIVES Instructions** to the Gatekeepers
in regard to Security & Safety

He **CALLS** for the residents to be **Guards**,

Some at Sentry Points watching over the city (church)
& **Some** watching over their own homes

Do you see all that ??

Nehemiah's **Primary job** at this point was :
to place the **RIGHT PEOPLE** in the **RIGHT** Positions in the **WORK**

& I **can tell you** from experience
this is easier **SAID** - than **DONE**

In JUST these 3 Vs's Nehemiah places:

Gatekeepers – overseers of certain “areas” of the ministry

Singers – I love the fact that the Worship team is SECOND

Levites – assistants to the Priests – prepare everything for worship

a Governor of Jerusalem (his brother)

& a Commander – to assist the Governor

& he **CALLS** for **GUARDS** to be Appointed –
WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

EACH of these positions are critically important

& the **PEOPLE** have got to step up & **FILL** these positions

In fact - it takes a VILLAGE of people
to FILL all the necessary positions in a Ministry

But The PROBLEM in America is . . .

Our culture – has made CHURCH a SPECTATOR SPORT

We WATCH a MOVIE on Saturday

We WATCH CHURCH on Sunday

We WATCH FOOTBALL on Monday

& we kind of watch them all – all in the same way

But God NEVER asks for a SPECTATOR – NEVER ONCE

Christianity is a RESPONSE RELATIONSHIP

Christianity is something WE DO

in RESPONSE to WHO Jesus Christ is in our lives

Not everyone is CALLED to a Formal Position in the Church

But EVERYONE is CALLED to DO SOMETHING

& Not only has God CALLED us

to be an ACTIVE PART of the Body of Christ

But He's also given us GIFTS

to FACILITATE the Role that He has called us to

Rom Ch 12 is one of the BEST PLACES to see

how God has CREATED each one of us

with very SPECIFIC gifts - for the Benefit of the Body

We call the ROM 12 Gifts - the CREATION GIFTS

meaning the Gifts God GAVE YOU - when He Created You

& we've found – that it is **Very Important** to serve the Lord
ACCORDING to the **GIFTS** - He's *created* us with

There are actually 3 different **GIFT LISTS** in the **N.T.**
Rom 12 – **Eph 4** – **1Cor 12**

Rom 12:4-8 –NLT

4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,

5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophecy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness (mercy) to others, do it gladly.

The GIFTS listed here are;

Prophecy

Serving

Teaching

Encouraging

Giving

Leading

Mercy

& it's **CRITICALLY IMPORTANT** that **EACH** of us **KNOW**
Where we **FIT** – in **this Gift Lists**

So that we can **KNOW** where God has **CALLED US**
to **Serve** in the Body – What **ROLE** He's created us to take

& **so** – if you'd like to know **WHERE** you might **FIT**
In this **GIFT LIST** – **AND** in the **BODY**

If you'll come over to the **Discipleship Tables**

Both **Pastor Jeff & I** will be doing
a quick & easy **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** test at our Tables

to give you ***some idea***
what **GIFTS** God may have **CREATED** you with

To give you an **IDEA** – of **WHERE** you should be Serving

Just **come over** to the Discipleship Tables -
the test will take you **5 min** to complete - & it'll be fun

But know this - - If you are **Born Again** today

God has **CREATED** you to **FIT**
SPECIFICALLY in His **Plan** - & in His **Work**

& it's **Important** that you begin to **FIGURE** that out
so that you can **start doing** what you were made to do, ***Amen ?***

Mark Driscoll boils the primary gifts down to just **THREE** areas which he connects to the **THREE Offices** of Jesus Christ

PROPHET – PRIEST - KING

& we're **NOT** talking **CAPITAL P** or **K**
but **LOWER CASE** prophet, priest, king

Here's how he *explains* these 3 roles;

PROPHET Loves

IDEAS – Concepts – Truth – Doctrine - Speaking – Preaching
Rebuking - & he's not afraid of Conflict or Controversy

If you **haven't** been **around** here long,
I'll just tell you – that's where **I fit**

PRIEST Loves;

PEOPLE – not big on Ideas or Concepts – they want to love the
People – they're Merciful – Patient – Compassionate

If you come to a **Prophet** with a sin – He'll Say:

REPENT – OR DIE

If you come to a **Priest** with a sin – He'll Say:

***Well, tell me how you feel about it – let's talk about it -
Let's meet once a week . . . for a YEAR***

If you've never met **Pastor Jeff** – I'll just tell you

Pastor Jeff is a **PRIEST**

& trust me – **Jeff & I** handle things – **VERY** Differently
& **THAT** – is a Good thing

Prophets love Truth & Change
Priests love People & Relationships

But what about KINGS?

Kings love SYSTEMS & ORGANIZATION

The best Birthday gift a KING could ever receive
is a LABEL MAKER

so they can LABEL everything in their house,
& put everything in perfect order

KINGS are IMPLEMENTERS – they ORGANIZE & ORCHESTRATE
they MAKE things happen

PROPHETS – START things

KINGS – MAKE things WORK

PRIESTS – TAKE CARE of the PEOPLE

& that is actually how we've been working (behind the scenes)
to structure the Leadership of this church

& just to let you know - - we have MOSTLY – PRIESTS

Most of the leadership here
just loves to take care of & love on the people

We could use another PROPHET or two!
Me, & Adele kind of hold down that area

But what we REALLY NEED around here
are some KINGS

We need people who can actually put
some of our Great Ideas – into PRACTICE

WHILE - all our Priests
are just hanging around LOVING on the people

& really – this is what Nehemiah's doing in Ch 7

He's appointing people to ROLES & POSITIONS
that they've been created by God - to Fill

In Fact – there's a GREAT EXAMPLE of Nehemiah's
KINGLY Gift – in the Next two Vs's

See if you can spot it

Remember – KINGS Organize, Orchestrate, & Implement

Neh 7:4-5 – NLT

4 At that time the city was large and spacious, but the population was small, and none of the houses had been rebuilt.

5 So my God gave me the idea to call together all the nobles and leaders of the city, along with the ordinary citizens, for registration. I had found the genealogical record of those who had first returned to Judah. This is what was written there:

Nehemiah says MY GOD gave me the idea
to ORGANIZE the people

When someone says “My God gave me the idea to
ORGANIZE the People” - - THAT is a KING Gift

If Nehemiah would've said ***“My God gave me the idea to READ the LAW to the People”*** (Like next wk) - - That's a **Prophet**

If Nehemiah would have said ***“My God gave me the idea to LOVE on the People”*** - - That would be a **PRIEST**

Nehemiah had **KINGLY** gifting

That's why he could **Organize** 50,000 people
& **Orchestrate** this incredible Task for God

OK - **Remember** - The point today is
It Takes A VILLAGE of People - to accomplish the Work of God

It requires **MANY, MANY** people
Each **TAKING THEIR PLACE** – & **DOING THEIR PART**

SO - as we **Read Thru** the rest of this **CH** –
Please – **THINK** about that

Neh 7:6-7(A) – NLT

6 Here is the list of the Jewish exiles of the provinces who returned from their captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar had deported them to Babylon, but now they returned to Jerusalem and the other towns in Judah where they originally lived.

7 Their leaders were Zerubbabel, Jeshua – both these leaders are seen repeatedly in the final books of the O.T., ***Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah . . . [stop there]***

These are the **Senior Leaders**

& Nehemiah lists the Leaders **FIRST** – because Leaders GO first
they **SERVE** first, **WORK** first, **GIVE** first . . .

they're **OUT IN FRONT** – That's why they're called **LEADERS**

& then **following** this list of leaders
is a **LONG LIST** of **FAMILIES**

who all returned from **Babylon** to **Jerusalem**
actually **long before** Nehemiah got there

These names are **IMPORTANT** to God – Everyone One of them
& So He has them Permanently Recorded in His **Word**

These are the **Family Names**
& the NUMBER of people in that family

who **LEFT** Babylon – to **RETURN** to Jerusalem
to **Reestablish** the **Worship of God** there!

CONSIDER the number of Generations represented here

That were **WILLING** to **SERVE** God,
& work to **REESTABLISH** the **Worship of God**

OK – here we go - Neh 7:7(B)-38 - NLT

. . . This is the number of the men of Israel who returned from exile:

8 The family of Parosh 2,172

9 The family of Shephatiah 372

10 The family of Arah 652

***11 The family of Pahath-moab (descendants of
Jeshua and Joab) 2,818***

12 The family of Elam 1,254

13 The family of Zattu 845

14 The family of Zaccai 760

15 The family of Bani 648

16 The family of Bebai 628

- 17 *The family of Azgad 2,322*
- 18 *The family of Adonikam 667*
- 19 *The family of Bigvai 2,067*
- 20 *The family of Adin 655*
- 21 *The family of Ater (descendants of Hezekiah) 98*
- 22 *The family of Hashum 328*
- 23 *The family of Bezai 324*
- 24 *The family of Jorah 112*
- 25 *The family of Gibbar 95*
- 26 *The people of Bethlehem and Netophah 188*
- 27 *The people of Anathoth 128*
- 28 *The people of Beth-azmaveth 42*
- 29 *The people of Kiriath-jearim, Kephirah, and Beeroth 743*
- 30 *The people of Ramah and Geba 621*
- 31 *The people of Micmash 122*
- 32 *The people of Bethel and Ai 123*
- 33 *The people of Nebo 52*
- 34 *The citizens of Elam 1,254*
- 35 *The citizens of Harim 320*
- 36 *The citizens of Jericho 345*
- 37 *The citizens of Lod, Hadid, and Ono 721*
- 38 *The citizens of Senaah 3,930*

We might think this is a waste of time – but just do me a favor

Replace one of the family names – with your OWN
The Family of SHEPARDSON . . .

OH – OK – Now it matters

These are **HUGE** Families – **GENERATIONS** of families
 who are forever on the **ROLE-CALL** of God

Because they **left the easy life** in Babylon
 & **returned** to **Jerusalem** to help build the **Wall of Testimony**
 & **Re-Establish** the **WORSHIP** of God there

These names MATTER to God
& YOUR name Matters to God

& YOUR family serving God – for Generations – MATTERS
IT MATTERS

It Matters FAR MORE than Most of us give it CREDIT for

OK – Moving on – Next we see the
PRIESTS – LEVITES – SINGERS – GATEKEEPERS
& TEMPLE SERVANTS

Neh 7:39-60 - NLT

39 *These are the priests who returned from exile: The family of Jedaiah (through the line of Jeshua) 973*

40 *The family of Immer 1,052*

41 *The family of Pashhur 1,247*

42 *The family of Harim 1,017*

43 *These are the Levites who returned from exile: The families of Jeshua and Kadmiel (descendants of Hodaviah) 74*

44 *The singers of the family of Asaph 148*

45 *The gatekeepers of the families of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and Shobai 138*

46 *The descendants of the following Temple servants returned from exile: Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth,*

47 *Keros, Siaha, Padon,*

48 *Lebanah, Hagabah, Shalmal,*

49 *Hanan, Giddel, Gahar,*

50 *Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda,*

51 *Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah,*

52 *Besai, Meunim, Nephusim,*

53 *Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur,*

54 *Bazluth, Mehida, Harsha,*

55 *Barkos, Sisera, Temah,*

56 Neziah, and Hatipha.

57 The descendants of these servants of King Solomon returned from exile: Sotai, Hassophereth, Peruda,

58 Jaalah, Darkon, Giddel,

59 Shephatiah, Hattil, Pokereth-hazzebaim, and Ami.

60 In all, the Temple servants and the descendants of Solomon's servants numbered 392.

These are **ALL Active Servants** in the Ministry of God

& there are **5,041 names** here – ***THAT'S a BIG Ministry Team***

Now – *this Next Group* **COULD NOT PROVE** that their Families were **Descendants** of Israel

& at the very least – **these Vs's teach** us that there were **RULES & ORDER** that God's People **followed**
(the **KINGLY** people like that)

Neh 7:61-65 – NLT

61 Another group returned at this time from the towns of Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Kerub, Addan, and Immer. However, they could not prove that they or their families were descendants of Israel.

62 This group included the families of Delaiah, Tobiah (different Tobiah), and Nekoda—a total of 642 people.

Continued → →

63 Three families of priests—Hobaiah, Hakkoz, and Barzillai—also returned. (This Barzillai had married a woman who was a descendant of Barzillai of Gilead, and he had taken her family name.)

64 They searched for their names in the genealogical records, but they were not found, so they were disqualified from serving as priests.

65 The governor told them not to eat the priests' share of food

from the sacrifices until a priest could consult the Lord about the matter by using the Urim and Thummim—the sacred lots.

The **SAD THING** is – there **ARE** times when we have to tell people

“Well, maybe it’s **not right** for you to do **THIS**
But you can **definitely** do **THAT**”

Which is **generally** when most people ***get mad*** & leave
But **this is** something that is **our responsibility** to do

& now – we have the **Grand Totals**

Neh 7:66-69 – NLT

***66 So a total of 42,360 people returned to Judah,
67 in addition to 7,337 servants and 245 singers, both men and women.***

***68 They took with them 736 horses, 245 mules,
69 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.***

& **ALL** these Families – **EVERY ONE** of them (& even their animals)
were **NECESSARY** – to **restore Worship** in Jerusalem

But there’s one more thing that **MUST** be addressed here

How many of you know – that **MINISTRY** requires **MONEY ?**

MINISTRY requires **MONEY**

& we see that **SO CLEARLY** in **Vs’s 70-72**

Neh 7:70-72 – NLT

70 Some of the family leaders gave gifts for the work. (the **leaders** are always 1st - 1st to **SERVE**, 1st to **WORK**, 1st to **GIVE**) ***The***

governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold coins (\$350,000), 50 gold basins, and 530 robes for the priests.

71 The other leaders gave to the treasury a total of 20,000 gold coins (\$6.5mil) and some 2,750 pounds of silver for the work (\$750k). (total from other leaders = \$7.25mil)

72 The rest of the people gave 20,000 gold coins (\$6.5mil), about 2,500 pounds of silver (\$700k), and 67 robes for the priests.

In today's dollars

this is OVER \$7 MILLION - from the JUST the Leaders
& an ADDL \$7 MILLION from the rest of the people

That's a \$14 MILLION dollar donation
to get the work of God up & running

That's a pretty good Sunday . . .

Tho I have very seldom talked about it in the past . . .

MINISTRY Requires MONEY – ***that's just the hard fact***

& here's how it works;

More MINISTRY – Requires More MONEY

Less MONEY – Equals Less MINISTRY

& here's the other difficult thing

GENERALLY the People we Minister to the **MOST**

Are the ones who **GIVE** the least – ***or not at all***

& so there has to be **Mature Christians**

who **understand** God's Divine Principles of **GIVING**

Who **GIVE** Sacrificially – in order to **PROVIDE** Ministry

for those who **CANNOT** or **Don't Understand** giving

Or . . . who **AREN'T** even **CHRISTIANS YET**

& so – **if you haven't Given** your life to Christ,
or if you're a **Visitor** Today - - this is **NOT** for you

But for you **CHRISTIANS** who are **PART** of this work

Jesus talked **MORE** amount **MONEY**
than he did about **HEAVEN & HELL** combined

& I believe it's **because** – *“How we Handle our Money –
is a **PROOF** of how we feel about God”*

The Bible makes **TWO THINGS** perfectly **CLEAR**

#1) A very real part of our **Worship** of God – is **GIVING**

#2) Our **Checkbook** shows Who (Or What) **Owens** our heart

Jesus put it this way - in **MAT 6:21 – NLT**

21 Wherever your treasure (money) is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Paul put it this way – in **2Cor 9:6-8 – NLT**

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Those are God's Divine Principles for **GIVING**

& in fact – this is the **ONLY** Command from God that He says
TEST ME on this

in **MAL 3:10** - *“You give your tithe for the work of God - & just see if I will open the windows of heaven & pour out a blessing upon you”*

Then God says **TRY ME** – **TEST ME** on this - & you'll see it's true

WHY ?? -- Because it takes **MONEY** – to Make **MINISTRY**

& **IT TAKES A VILLAGE OF PEOPLE**
to **Build** & **Maintain** – the **WORK & WORSHIP of GOD**

& so we read the **Last Vs** of this **HUGE CH**

Neh 7:73 – NLT

73 So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Temple servants, and some of the common people settled near Jerusalem. The rest of the people returned to their own towns throughout Israel . . .

*Ahh . . . but the people **WILL RETURN** - Next Week
& they'll return to an Incredibly **GREAT Revival** !*

In **Ch 8** we see the **FRUIT** of all these **LABORS**
& **ALL** this **MONEY** - & *it is incredible*

& So - It really does **Take a VILLAGE – of Christians**

to **build** & **maintain** the **Work** - & to **Provide** the **Finances**

& SO - if you're here today
& you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord

& if you would say TODAY is the day
that I will give my life to Christ

EVERYTIME just ONE person Repents –
& puts their Faith in Jesus Christ

ALL the Work - & ALL the money
becomes IMMEASURABLY worth it

So I want to give you a chance
to Make Jesus Christ your Lord right now

Let's Pray