

The Book of NEHEMIAH

Chapter 11

“Stand Up & Be Counted!”

I) DEDICATION! (v1-9)

Observation:

(v1) There are *leaders* of the people.

(v2a) There is a *willingness to serve* the people.

(v2b) There is a *blessing* from the people.

(v3) There are *heads* of the people. (A church's dedication to organization leads to multiplication.) (1 Tim. Ch. 4)

(v4-9) Notice the character of the folks in verse 6 they are *“valiant men!”* (2 Tim. 2:1-13)

> **John MacArthur in his book *Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry* gives insight to**

What marks a man or woman effective in ministry?

- **TENACITY** – He or she trusts totally in God's power!
- **INTEGRITY** – His or Her life is consistent with sound doctrine!
- **AUTHORITY** – He or she receives his commission from God, not themselves!
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – He or she is constantly aware of the implications of God's omnipresence!
- **HUMILITY** – He or she is not consumed with himself or herself, but with the glory of God!

(New Testament relevance - Acts 6:2-7 - *Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*) (Semper Fi from Sgt. Peralta - "Semper Fidelis" - The Motto of the United States Marine Corps. Latin for *always faithful!* Faithful to God, Country, Family and the Corps.)

II) INSPIRATION! (v10-18)

> In verses 10-19 we see Priests and workers in a variety of ministries. Today we would refer to them as Pastors and deacons and may I add deaconesses. Faithful people who answer the call of God to serve our Lord Jesus Christ! In Heb 6:10-12 - *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.* There are 38 ministries operating on a daily basis here at Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor. We have 35 full time and part/time employees, which includes our **Pearl Harbor Christian Academy** (K – 8th grade). Our Children's ministry alone utilizes approximately 75 volunteers on a weekly basis, the AWANA ministry on Sunday nights over 30 volunteers. **Jesus said in Matthew 20:25-28** - *"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Our Lord also said, *"Well done good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the Lord!"*

> **There are four keys to solid Christian Service:**

(1) **Be VULNERABLE** – Capable of being wounded, shown to be wrong, even admitting it before being confronted.

(2) **Be TEACHABLE** – A willingness to learn, being quick to hear and respond to reproof, being open to counsel.

(3) **Be AVAILABLE** – Accessible, touchable, able to be interrupted.

(4) **Be HONEST** – Committed to the truth regardless of how much it hurts, a willingness to admit the truth no matter how difficult or humiliating the admission may be. Hating all that is phony or false.

May this poem be our prayer *"Lord, I am willing to receive what You give, To lack what you withhold, To relinquish what you take, To suffer what You inflict, To be what You require. And, Lord, if others are to be Your messengers to me, I am willing to hear and heed what they have to say, Amen."* (Chuck Swindoll, *Living above the Level of Mediocrity*)

III) CELEBRATION! (v20-36)

Notice a *quota of singing day by day* in the New Testament we are told to be filled with the Spirit in Eph 5:17-21 - *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

(Listen to "The Fellowship of the Unashamed")