



The Joy of Being on the Wall  
Nehemiah 12:27-31; 38-40; 43-47  
June 24, 2018

**Introduction:**

If happiness were a disease, I would want to be infected with it each day of my life. I have learned that life is too short and too serious to live and not enjoy each and every passing moment. It seems like the older I get, the shorter life gets. I do not think God's people do our God a great deal of service by going around all down in the mouth.

Here is what I have learned; people who carry a great attitude and smile are never in need of friends. These people are unbelievably contagious! However, have you noticed how many depressed and sad people there are in the world? We live in a very pressurized society. Our country is under severe stress, and our world is under even greater stress. Someone has dubbed our day as the "pill-popping generation". It is a documented fact that many of those occupying hospital beds in America today are there because of mental or emotional disorder. Suicide has become one of the leading causes of death among our young adults today. It really is a sad thing.

**Takeaway:**

Contagious joy should be a mark of every one of God's children.

*Nehemiah 12:27-31 (NKJV) Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. <sup>28</sup>And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, <sup>29</sup>from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup>Then the priests and Levites purified themselves and purified the people, the gates, and the wall. <sup>31</sup>So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate.*

I. The Preparation by the People

*Nehemiah 12:27a (NKJV) Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites...*

**Takeaway:**

Anytime we prepare to worship, there must be enough time given for purification. When each of us left home this morning to attend this worship service, we must all understand that before real worship takes place, we must be clean. You cannot just rush in, not make proper preparation, and expect God to bless our unpreparedness. He will not do it!

**Presbyterian Pastor Clarence Macartney:**

**“There will never be an effective ministry apart from a pure life. It matters not that the person is a pastor, deacon, elder, singer, or simply a Christian teacher. His ministry is to be preceded with purification of a pure life. The better the man, the better the preacher. When he kneels beside the bed of the dying or when he mounts the pulpit stairs, then every self-denial he has made, every Christian forbearance he has shown, every resistance to sin and temptation will come back to him to strengthen his arm and give conviction to his voice. Likewise, every evasion of duty, every indulgence of self, every unworthy thought, and every compromise with evil will be there at the head of the stairs to meet the minister on Sunday morning to take the light from his eyes, the power from his blow, the ring from his voice, and the joy from his heart.”**

**II. The Procession on the Walls**

***Nehemiah 12:31 (NKJV) So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate.***

**Three Closing Applications:**

1. **An atmosphere of joy should accompany God’s people every time we gather.**

***Nehemiah 12:43 (NKJV) Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced...***

**Takeaway:**

**Every time we come into this room, there should be celebration and joy! Singing should always accompany God’s people.**

***Proverbs 15:13 (NKJV) A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.***

***Proverbs 15:15 (NKJV) All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.***

2. **A joyful spirit will have far-reaching effects.**

***Nehemiah 12:43 (NKJV)...the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.***

3. **Music is one of the most expressive ways to communicate happiness.**

**I have never met a genuine, joyful/happy Christian - and that person not be a singing man or woman. You cannot worry and sing all at the same time. Nor can you worry and pray at the same time.**