

IMPACT

03 APRIL 2016

Volume XLI No. 13

A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Ekklesia Containing Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

Our Memory Verse

*27 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps. 43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.
—Nehemiah 12:27, 43—*



STRAIGHT FROM THE BELOVED PASTOR'S HEART

NEHEMIAH THE BUILDER Lesson No. 12 THE THANKSGIVING OF NEHEMIAH Chapter 12

In this chapter, we find how Nehemiah led the nation of Israel to dedicate, sanctify and consecrate not just the walls and their city but also their individual lives for the honor and glory of God. Their praises and thanksgiving were all done in public to proclaim before the whole world that the God of Nehemiah and Israel is the ever merciful God who gathers His people for His name and to love and bless them richly for all eternity.

MESSAGE

What are the valuable Thanksgiving lessons that we can learn today?

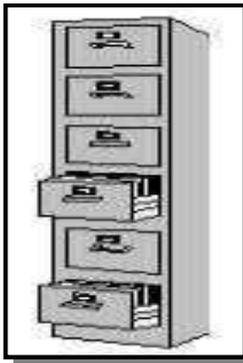
1. Thanksgiving is always God-ward and therefore the priests and the Levites led the people of Israel in thanksgiving (vv. 1, 24).
2. Thanksgiving led to the dedication of the wall (v.27). It should be the greatest and most important reason why we dedicate our lives, our children, our homes, properties, business, career, education and other things which we believe God has freely and joyfully given and entrusted to us. Nehemiah and his people never took the credits for themselves and not even given to the idea that they should be thanked for. They have just done what they ought to as those who love God and would like to live right before Him and men.

3. Thanksgiving is giving God only the praise and glory for all the work and labors He has given us to perform (Col. 3:17). We are just God's mere instruments to accomplish His divine purposes.

4. Thanksgiving involves singing (vv.27-29). Many of the Psalms David wrote were all thanksgiving psalms (Ps.30:4). Our singing of praises and hymns both in words and in instruments shows our thanksgiving to God. This is the reason why we sing from our hearts with all our might and joy—which is unspeakable and full of glory.

5. Thanksgiving involves praises and prayers (Ps. 35:18; Col. 1:3). Note how important and vital to our leadership and ministry the prayers and praises we offer as God's people.

6. Thanksgiving involves giving—cheerful giving. This is exactly why the word is thanksgiving (vv.33-34; Heb. 13:15)! The generous giving of our lives and all our resources to God and His work is the greatest way we can show and prove our loving gratitude toward God for all He is to us and for everything He has done for us—from our greatest salvation to all His undeserved blessings, provisions and protection (2 Cor. 9:15).



The BMA ARCHIVES

Dr. Benny M. Abante's
PREACHING MATERIALS

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| APRIL 03 | EPHESIANS 2:11-18 |
| APRIL 04 | ROMANS 7:18-25 |
| APRIL 05 | ROMANS 8:1-11 |
| APRIL 06 | JEREMIAH 18:1-6 |
| APRIL 07 | EPHESIANS 4:1-12 |
| APRIL 08 | GENESIS 6:11-22 |
| APRIL 09 | PSALM 77:10-20 |

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

Contd. from p. 1

7. Thanksgiving involves sanctification (v.47). Through thanksgiving, we learn three (3) things about sanctification:

- 7.1. We learn to consecrate our lives for God.
- 7.2. We learn to dedicate everything we have to God.
- 7.3. We learn to separate ourselves and all that we have for God's use only.

Therefore, thanksgiving makes us a grateful and blessed people. And being blessed makes us happy and being happy makes us all feel fully fulfilled. O what a wonderful life we have in Christ and what a great joy it is to give Him thanks and praises all the days of our lives!

—BMA's Messages 04.03.16



Nehemiah 12 Commentary By Matthew Henry

We have here an account of the remaining good effects of the universal joy that was at the dedication of the wall. When the solemnities of a thanksgiving day leave such impressions on ministers and people as that both are more careful and cheerful in doing their duty afterwards, then they are indeed acceptable to God and turn to a good account. So it was here. 1. The ministers were more careful than they had been of their work; the respect the people paid them upon this occasion encouraged them to diligence and watchfulness, Neh. 12:45. The singers kept the ward of their God, attending in due time to the duty of their office; the porters, too, kept the ward of the purification, that is, they took care to preserve the purity of the temple by denying admission to those that were ceremonially unclean. When the joy of the Lord thus engages us to our duty, and enlarges us in it, it is then an earnest of that joy which, in concurrence with the perfection of holi-

ness, will be our everlasting bliss. 2. The people were more careful than they had been of the maintenance of their ministers. The people, at the dedication of the wall, among other things which they made matter of their joy, rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited, Neh. 12:44. They had a great deal of comfort in their ministers, and were glad of them. When they observed how diligently they waited, and what pains they took in their work, they rejoiced in them. Note, The surest way for ministers to recommend themselves to their people, and gain an interest in their affections, is to wait on their ministry (Rom. 12:7), to be humble and industrious, and to mind their business. When these did so the people thought nothing too much to do for them, to encourage them. The law had provided then their portions (Neh. 12:44), but what the better were they for that provision if what the law appointed them either was not duly collected or not justly paid to them? Now, (1.) Care is here taken for the collecting of their dues. They were modest, and would rather lose their right than call for it themselves. The people were many of them careless and would not bring their dues unless they were called upon; and therefore some were appointed whose office it should be to gather into the treasuries, out of the fields of the cities, the portions of the law for the priests and Levites (Neh. 12:44), that their portion might not be lost for want of being demanded. This is a piece of good service both to ministers and people, that the one may not come short of their maintenance nor the other of their duty. (2.) Care is taken that, being gathered in, they might be duly paid out, Neh. 12:47. They gave the singers and porters their daily portion, over and above what was due to them as Levites; for we may suppose that when David and Solomon appointed them their work (Neh. 12:45, 46), above what was required from them as Levites, they settled a fund for their further encouragement. Let those that labour more abundantly in the word and doctrine be counted worthy of this double honour. As for the other Levites, the tithes, here called the holy things, were duly set apart for them, out of which they paid the priests their tithe according to the law. Both are said to be sanctified; when what is contributed, either voluntarily or by law, for the support of religion and the maintenance of the ministry, is given with an eye to God and his honour, it is sanctified, and shall be accepted of him accordingly, and it will cause the blessing to rest on the house and all that is in it, Ezek. 44:30.