A Time of Glad Thankfulness to God 5.2.10

(Nehemiah 12:27-47)

Where are we in Nehemiah's story?

There has been a time of labor and struggle
Now there is a time of dedication

1. Glad Thankfulness Demands our Time (*Neh 12:27-47*)

- The Example of Nehemiah
  - The wall has been built since Nehemiah 6
  - Everything since has been reflection on that completed work!
- The Exhortation of Scripture (*Pss 118:1; Eph 5:4; 1 Thess 4:18*)
- Our problem: we ask, want, beg, and plead and then aren't thankful

2. Glad Thankfulness Loves Music (*Neh 12:29, 31, 36, 42, 46*)

- In Scripture, Thankfulness is often accompanied by music and singing (*Pss 30:4; 69:30; 147:7; Eph 5:19-20*)
- Make this work in two ways
  - Sing to God when are alone
  - Sing to God when you are gathered with the saints

3. Glad Thankfulness is Leader-Led (*Neh 12:31*)

- Pay attention husbands, dads, mothers, community group leaders, ministry team leaders!
- As leaders we must set the pace for thankfulness
- If our people aren't thankful, we bear some responsibility
  - We must express thankfulness to them
  - We must remind them of all they have to be thankful for

4. Glad Thankfulness Unites (Neh 12:27-28

- There are many different people in our community
- But we are all united by the fact that our great God is at work in all of us (*Col 3:15-16*)

5. Glad Thankfulness is all of Grace (*Neh 12:43*)

- Glad thankfulness is a good work so it ultimately doesn't come from us
- Glad thankfulness is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
- When was the last time you struggled in prayer to be a more thankful person?

6. Glad Thankfulness Must be Seen and Heard outside our Community (*Neh 12:43*)

- Glad thankfulness isn't meant to be held inside, but seen and heard
- As Christians we have more reason for glad thankfulness than anyone else
- We should have a reputation for this (*2 Cor 2:14*) DO WE?

7. Glad Thankfulness Leads to Increased Faithfulness (*Neh 12:44-47*)

- Proud, arrogant, demanding hearts lead to more disobedience
- People who truly realize that the Lord has been more kind than they ever deserve will be people who are increasingly faithful

8. Glad Thankfulness Demands our Careful Consideration (*Neh 12:31-43*)

- The context of Thankfulness in Nehemiah
  - Consider the many problems faced by Nehemiah and the people
  - Consider the many prayers lifted up to God
  - Consider the faithfulness of God in response to all of that
- In that context . . .
  - Descriptions of the wall and the people are far from worthless
  - They are a victory lap!
- When was the last time you really took time to consider the faithfulness of God in your life and respond with glad thankfulness?