

“A Guide For Giving!”
Nehemiah 12:44-47

Introduction:

1. Come To The End Of Nehemiah 12!
 - Last Week, We Saw The Exciting Climax To The Rebuilding Of The Walls Of Jerusalem!
 - 12:27 - “The Dedication Of The Wall Of Jerusalem!”
 - Along With The Entire City & Especially The People!
 - Every Time We Meet Is An Opportunity!
 - For Re-Dedication Of Our Lives To The Lord!
2. The Result From This Dedication:
 - Renewal & Revival!
 - Impacted Several Areas In Their Lives!
 - A Renewed:
 - Focus! The Temple – The House Of God!
 - Fellowship! Brought The People Together To Worship!
 - Function! They Gave!
 - Feeling! Joy!
3. The Last Few Verses Of Chapter 12:
 - Points Back To Their Renewed Function – A Revival Of Giving!
 - They Offered Sacrifices! 12:43a - “Also that day they offered great sacrifices!”
 - Now They Were Going To Offer Their Finances!
 - Read 12:44-47!
4. Getting Close To The Holidays – November 1st!
 - Soon, We Will Hear Bells Ringing At Stores!
 - Trying To Get You To Give To A Worthy Cause!
 - Soon, We Will Hear About Opportunities To Give:
 - To Children Who Are In Need! For Jackets / Clothes / Toys!
 - Already Have Received Mailings About Ways To Help Children & Families All Around The World Who Are In Need!
 - And Other Good & Useful Organizations Are Asking For Funds, In Order To Finish The Year In The Black!
 - Some Of These Organizations Even Provide:
 - “Guides For Giving!”
 - If You Can’t Give \$1,000 At One Time, Why Not Just \$75 A Month? Or \$50? Or \$25? Any Amount Will Do!
 - If You Can’t Afford To Give Now, Why Not Make Plans For After You Die – Using Your Estate!
 - Good Organizations / Good Purposes / Trying To Get You To Give!
5. These Verses In Nehemiah 12 Are Given As A “Guide For Giving” From God For His People!
 - There Is ONE Organization That Should Take The Priority & Precedent For His People In Their Giving!
 - Both Then & Now!
 - And When You Are Truly Dedicated To The Lord:
 - You Will Give!
 - 12:44a - “At That Time!”
 - And Follow God’s Guide For Giving!

* In His Guide For Giving, God Has Provided:

1. ***A Place Of Giving!***
 - Not Just Any Place Will Do!
 - There Is to Be A Special & Sacred Priority To Giving To The ***Place*** God Has Decided To Receive His Offerings!
 - Then: The Temple! Now: The Church!
 - 12:44a - “And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures!”
 - A Place Of Care!
 - Some Men Were “Appointed” To Watch Over The Place Where The Offerings Of God’s People Would Be Kept!
 - Probably Men Of Good Character & Conduct!

- To Provide Good Accountability Of What Was Given!
- A Place Of Collection!
 - “Chambers For The Treasures”
 - So Much Was Given, That They Had To Have A Place For It All!
- This Place Was At The Temple!
 - Malachi 3:10 - “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house!”
 - The People Had A Responsibility To:
 - Care For What Was Given!
 - Collect What Was Given!
 - In An Organized & God-Honoring Way!
- There Is Still A Place Of Giving For Us!
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. / Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come!”
 - The Place Of Priority For All Of Our Giving Is To Be Our Local Church!
 - All Part Of God’s Design! Not Just The Place, But Even The Time!
- We Need To Follow The Lord’s Guide For The Place Of Our Giving!
 - The Church!

* In His Guide For Giving, God Has Provided:

2. A Plan For Giving!

- Not Just Any Plan Will Do!
 - There Are Certain Things That The Lord Wants His People To Give!
- 12:44b - “For the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites!”
- The Free Gifts Of His People!
 - “Offerings” – What Was Given Willingly To The Lord!
 - What Was In Their Heart To Give!
 - Over And Above What Was Expected!
- The First Gifts Of His People!
 - “Firstfruits” – What Was The First & Best Of What God Had Provided For Them!
 - Of Their Crops & Lifestock!
- The Fractional Gifts Of His People!
 - “Tithe” – The Tenth Of Whatever They Earned Or Produced Was Given To The Lord!
 - These Were Expected To Be Given By The People! But, Why Were They To Give?
- The Focused Gifts Of His People!
 - “For The Priests And Levites!”
 - The People Had A Responsibility To Give To The Lord BY Giving For The Encouragement & Support Of Their Spiritual Leaders!
- This Still Is Our Plan Of Giving!
 - A Natural Standard!
 - The Tithe / Tenth - Has Been The Standard From Even Before The Giving Of The Law By Moses!
 - Jacob Promised To Give A Tenth To The Lord!
 - Genesis 28:22 - “And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee!”
 - Abraham Gave A Tithe To The Lord Through The Priest Of The Most High God!
 - Genesis 14:20 - “And he gave him tithes of all!”
 - The Tithe Was Used For The Regular Support Of The Lord’s Work & The Lord’s Workers! Ought To Be A Goal!
 - A New Standard!
 - 1 Corinthians 16:2 - “As God hath prospered him!”
 - Does This Eliminate The Tithe? Don’t Believe So!
- What Is This Giving For?
 - Galatians 6:6 - “Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things!”
 - 1 Timothy 5:17-18 - “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. / For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox

that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward!”

- The Support Of God’s Work & God’s Workers In The Local Church Is Still To Be A Priority In His Guide For Giving!

* In His Guide For Giving, God Has Provided:

3. A Procedure Of Giving!

- Not Just Any Procedure Will Do!
- 12:44c - “For Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited!”
- Giving Gladly!
 - “Rejoiced!”
 - With A Spirit Of Joy!
 - Same Way We Are To Give!
 - 2 Corinthians 9:7 - “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver!”
- Giving Gratefully!
 - “For – The Priests & For – The Levites!”
 - Grateful For Their Service For The Lord & For Them!
- Giving Generously!
 - So That They Could Continue To “Wait” & Serve The Lord Faithfully, Without Any Undue Distractions!
 - Hebrews 13:17 - “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you!”
 - They Realized That A Joyful Ministry By Their Leaders – The Priests & Levites – Would Return A Blessing For Them!
- This Still Is Our A Procedure Of Giving!
 - How Do We Give?
 - What Is Our Desire When We Give / Cannot Give?
 - The Procedure For Our Giving Is:
 - With A Glad / Grateful / Generous Heart!

* In His Guide For Giving, God Has Provided:

4. A Purpose For Giving!

- Not Just Any Purpose Will Do!
- 12:45-46 - “And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. / 46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God!”
- For The Welfare Of God’s Servants!
 - “Singers” & “Porters”
 - Levites With A Specialized Roles & Responsibilities In The Temple!
 - These Full-Time Servants – Who Were Laboring For Them – Depended Upon Them For Support!
- For The Work Of God’s Servants!
 - “Kept” – They Were Faithful In Their Duties To The Lord!
 - Singers: “Kept The Ward Of Their God!”
 - Through Their Praises In The Temple!
 - Continual Rotation – To Never Stop!
 - Porters: “Kept The Ward OF The Purification!”
 - Through Their Protection Of The Temple!
 - “Diligently Kept The Gates That No Impure Person Or Thing Entered!” (Gill)
 - Praise & Purity Were Serious Responsibilities!
 - And Needed The People’s Full Support!
- For The Worship Of God’s Servants!
 - “Songs Of Praise & Thanksgiving Unto God!”
 - To Keep Their Worship According To The Standards Set By God & His Faithful Servants: David & Asaph!
- This Still Is Our Purpose For Giving!
 - For The Welfare / Work / Worship Of God’s Servant-Leaders – His Preachers / Pastors /

Shepherds Of The Flock!

- They Have A Serious Responsibility:
 - To Lead Their Congregation In Praise!
 - To Protect Their Congregation From Error!
 - Through The Labor / Ministry Of The Word Of God!
- And These Kinds Of Serious Responsibilities Need The Support Of The Church!
 - 1 Corinthians 9:7-14!

* In His Guide For Giving, God Has Provided:

5. *A Pattern For Giving!*

- Not Just Any Pattern Will Do!
- 12:47 - "And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron!"
- Pattern Of Who Should Give!
 - "All Israel!" – But Didn't This Take Place In Jerusalem / In Judea? Symbolized The Universal Importance / Responsibility Of Giving!
 - No Child Of God Is Exempt From This Priority!
- Pattern Of When To Give!
 - "Days Of Zerubbabel" / "Days Of Nehemiah"
 - Period Of Around 100 Years!
 - This Spirit Of Giving Continued Throughout This Time!
 - Consistency Is Important!
- Pattern Of What To Give!
 - "Portions – Every Day His Portion!"
 - The Daily Needs / Daily Bread Of Their Servants!
 - They Were Not To Be In Need!
 - So That They Could Focus Their Attention & Energy On Ministering To The Lord & For The People!
 - When The People Gave To Their Ministers, It Was An Expression Of How Much They Valued The Ministry Of God's Word!
- Pattern Of Why To Give!
 - For Dedication!
 - "Sanctified" - This Is Why We Give!
 - To Commit It To The Lord In Worship!
 - For Distribution!
 - Even The Levites "Tithed" What They Were Given!
 - Were Generous / Good Stewards!
- This Still Is Our Pattern For Giving!
 - Who Should Give / When To Give / What To Give / Why!

Conclusion:

1. This Is God's Guide For Our Giving!
 - Now, How Will We Give?
 - This Kind Of Giving Will Be The Result Of Dedication To The Lord!

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