

“Deserving Of Devotion!”
Nehemiah 9:26-38

Introduction:

1. Nehemiah 9 Is A Prayer / Praise Meeting In Response To What God Had Done For His People!
 - The Leaders Encouraged The People To Praise & Bless The Lord!
 - 9:5! And From 9:6 - 9:38 They Do So!
 - And As They Praise The Lord & Pray To The Lord:
 - We Have A Brief History Lesson Of God’s Work In The Lives Of His People!
 - Reminds Us Why God:
 - Deserves Our Devotion & Commitment Every Day!
- 2.. Looked At 4 Reasons Last Sunday Night – Through Verse 25:
 - Look At The Final Reason Tonight!
 - The Greatness Of His Mercy!
3. Mercy Is A Key Attribute Of God In The Rest Of This Chapter!
 - Found 5 Times In 2 Different Forms!
 - In Verses 27, 28, 31 - A Deep Love!
 - In Verse 32 - A Loyal Love!
 - It Shows To Us Why God:
 - Created Us / Called Us / Has Concern For Us / And Is Committed To Us!
 - Because He Loves Us! You! Me!
 - His Mercy Is a Deep, Inward Feeling Of Love & Compassion!
 - In Isaiah, It Is Used Of A Mother’s Love For Her Baby!
 - In Psalms, It Is Used Of A Father’s Love!
 - And We See In These Last Verses Of Nehemiah 9:
 - The Difference Between God’s Supreme Compassion & His Own People’s Surprising Conduct!
 - God Is Always Merciful!
 - And Deserves More & More Of Our Devotion / Commitment!

1. *A Demonstration Of God’s Great Mercy! (9:26-31)*

- The History Of The Children Of Israel Is A Cycle!
 - The People Of Israel Saw This - Uses This Cycle 3 Times!
- First Cycle:
 - 9:26-27 - “Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. / Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies!”
 - Carelessness With The Lord!
 - “Nevertheless!” - After All God Had Given Them, They “Couldn’t Care Less!”
 - Isn’t This What Happens Most? Not Outright Rebellion (At First), But Indifference & Apathy!
 - Conduct Against The Lord!
 - Disobedience! Through:
 - Rebellion Against The Lord!
 - Rejection Of The Law!
 - Refusal Of His Love! “Slew Prophets”
 - Trying To Restore Them!
 - Defiance! “Great Provocations!”
 - Sin Always Gets Worse - Take Care Of It!
 - Chastening Of The Lord!
 - “Deliveredst Them” – “Vex” - Squeeze!
 - Why Would The Lord Do This?
 - Hebrews 12:6-7 - “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son

whom he receiveth. / If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

- Calling To The Lord!

- "Time Of Trouble!" - God Often Uses!

- Get Our Attention & Draw Back!

- "Cried!"

- Jeremiah 33:3 - "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not!" (In Prison)

- Compassion From The Lord!

- "Heardest From Heaven!"

- He Hears His People!

- He Helps His People!

- By "Sending Saviors!"

- Yeshua - Pointing To Another Savior With That Word As His Name! Jesus!

- Luke 1:31 - "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS!"

- Why? "Manifold Mercies!"

- Second Cycle!

- 9:28 - "But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies!"

- Their Carelessness!

- "After They Had Rest!" - Got Lazy!

- Forgot About What God Had Done For Them!

- Psalm 103:2 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"

- Their Conduct!

- "Evil Again!"

- Proverbs 26:11 - "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly!"

- Their Chastening!

- They Could Have Had God As Their King!

- Their Call!

- "Returned And Cried!" (Dizzy!)

- God's Compassion!

- "Heard" & Helped!

- Cycle - "Many Times!"

- Why? "According To Thy Mercies!"

- Third Cycle!

- 9:29-31 - "And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear. / 30 Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands. / 31 Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God!"

- Carelessness!

- Ignoring God's Warning & His Will!

- Conduct!

- From Their Heart, To Their Hearing, To Their Habits, Until They Were Hardened!

- Like Oxen Not Wanting To Take The Yoke!

- Chastening!

- "Yet Many Years Didst Thou Forbear Them!"

- God's Chastening Is Not Always Hard & Strong!

- Often It Starts With "A Still Small Voice!"

- Like Elijah Heard! 1 Kings 19:12 - "And after the earthquake a fire; but the

- LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice!”
- When Will We Learn / Listen / Live For The Lord?
- Call! Where Is It? The Cycle Stops!
 - Instead: “Not Give Ear!”
 - But Did God Give Up? No!
- Compassion!
 - Did Not Forget / Does Not Forsake Them!
- Why? “Thy Great Mercies Sake!”
 - “Thou Art A Gracious & Merciful God!”
- The Cycle Continues, Doesn’t It? In Our Lives Also!
 - Where Are You At In This Cycle!
 - Remember: Because Of God’s Great Mercy:
 - He Deserves Our Devotion & Commitment!

2. *A Desire For God’s Great Mercy! (9:32-38)*

- Now, The People Apply What They Have Learned About God’s Mercy To Themselves & Their Own Situation!
- The Nature Of God’s Mercy!
 - 9:32 - “Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day!”
 - God Is The Only One They Can Turn To For Mercy!
 - They Have Relied On Themselves / Others / Idols!
 - God’s Nature Is Different!
 - There Is Force In God’s Mercy!
 - It Is Powerful To Deliver & Save!
 - He Can Turn His Compassion Into Action!
 - Because Of He Is “Great / Mighty / Terrible!”
 - Nothing Can Get In The Way Of His Mercy!
 - There Is Faithfulness In God’s Mercy!
 - “Keeps” It! Watches Over It! Guards It!
 - There Is Feeling In God’s Mercy!
 - They Ask The Lord: “Let Not All The Trouble Seem Little Before Thee!”
 - Because They Know God Does Feel / Love!
 - God Is Merciful!
- The Need For God’s Mercy! (9:33-37)
 - We Will Ask For God’s Mercy Only When There Is:
 - A Humble Admission Of Our Conduct!
 - 9:33-35 - “Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly: / 34 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them. / 35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works!” – When It Comes To God’s Chastening & Correction:
 - I Am Deserving! “Thou Art Just!”
 - I Am Depraved! “Thou Hast Done Right, But We Have Done Wickedly!”
 - I Am Disobedient! Did Not Obey / Observe!
 - I Am Difficult! (Just Being Difficult / Stubborn!)
 - Ignoring God’s Goodness To Them!
 - Respond: “Not Served Thee!”
 - Ignoring God’s Gift To Them!
 - Remember 9:25! Fortified Cities / Fertile Land / Furnished Houses / Finished Wells / And Fruitful Orchards!

- Respond: "Neither Turned!"
- A Humble Admission Of Our Conduct!
- A Humble Acceptance Of Our Correction!
 - 9:36-37 - "Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it: / 37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress!"
 - Duties Toward Others! "Servants" vs. "Served!"
 - Dominion By Others!
 - "Because Of Our Sins!"
 - Distress From Others!
- With This Admission & Acceptance, They Knew That God Would Be Merciful To The Again!
 - So, They Took:
- The Notice Of God Mercy!
 - 9:38 - "And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it!"
 - "Because Of All This!"
 - Because Of God's Mercy! Because Of His Commitment To Us!
 - He Deserves Our Devotion & Commitment To Him!
 - A Promised Commitment! ("Sure Covenant!")
 - A Public Commitment! ("Write It!")
 - A Practical Commitment! ("Seal!")
 - Not Just Thinking About It / Talking About It / But Living It!
- This Is The Kind Of Commitment God Deserves!
 - Because Of His Mercy & His Commitment To Us!

Conclusion:

1. How Is Your Devotion & Commitment To The Lord?
 - Doesn't He Deserve Our All?

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