

MESSAGE TITLE:

Kingdom Builders

CONTEXTUAL SCRIPTURES:

Nehemiah 11:1-36

Nehemiah 11:1-4a (NIV2011) - ¹ Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem. The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. ² The people commended all who volunteered to live in Jerusalem. ³ These are the provincial leaders who settled in Jerusalem (now some Israelites, priests, Levites, temple servants and descendants of Solomon's servants lived in the towns of Judah, each on their own property in the various towns, ^{4a} while other people from both Judah and Benjamin lived in Jerusalem):

Key Principles:

- I. The Need for Kingdom Builders
- II. The Cost & The Call for Kingdom Builders
- III. The Commendation of Kingdom Builders

I. The Need for Kingdom Builders

A. The Role of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 11:1 (NIV2011) - ¹ Now the **leaders of the people** settled in Jerusalem. The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, **the holy city**, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns.

1. Political/Civil/Economic Center
2. Religious Center - The Holy City
3. Rebuilding Israel as a nation centered on Jerusalem

B. The Status of Jerusalem

1. The Temple was rebuilt
2. The Walls were rebuilt, and gates repaired
3. The city was a ghost town

Nehemiah 7:4 (NIV2011) - Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.

C. The Need for Inhabitants in Jerusalem

Nehemiah 10:39b (NIV2011) - ^{39b} “We will not neglect the house of our God.”

James 2:14-18 (NIV2011) ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

Summary/Reflection:

As Builders of God's Kingdom we are called to **see** the spiritual desolation of our communities and **respond** with corresponding actions.

II. The Cost & The Call for Kingdom Builders

Nehemiah 11:1-2 (NIV2011) - ¹ Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem. The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. ² The people commended all who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

A. The Cost

1. Safety Risk
2. Economic Sacrifice
3. What cost are we willing to pay as Kingdom Builders?

Luke 14:25-27, 33 (NIV2011) - ²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

B. The Leaders

Nehemiah 11:1a (NIV2011) - ^{1a} Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem.

C. The Selected - Lots Crew

Nehemiah 11:1 (NIV2011) – ¹ Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem. **The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem**, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns.

1. Biblical Examples of casting lots

Proverb 16:33 (NIV2011) - The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

a) Land division

(1) Numbers 26, 33, 34 & 36

(2) Joshua 14-21

b) Temple offices & functions - 1 Chronicles 24-26

c) Judas' replacement by lots - Acts 1:26

d) Today - Word of God, Spirit of God & Prayer - not games of chance

D. The Volunteers

Nehemiah 11:2 (NIV2011) - ² The people commended all who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

Summary/Reflection:

Counting the cost as Kingdom builders means prioritizing God's agenda above all else, even if it means sacrificing comfort, possessions, or relationships.

III. The Commendation of Kingdom Builders

A. The People Commend

Nehemiah 11:2 (NIV2011) - ² The people commended all who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

B. Nehemiah Commends in Listings & Locations

Nehemiah 11:3-4a (NIV2011) - ³ These are the provincial leaders who settled in Jerusalem (now some Israelites, priests, Levites, temple servants and descendants of Solomon's servants lived in the towns of Judah, each on their own property in the various towns, ^{4a} while other people from both Judah and Benjamin lived in Jerusalem):

1. In Jerusalem

- a) 468 laymen of the tribe of Judah (v 4b-6)
- b) 928 laymen of the tribe of Benjamin (v 7-9)
- c) 1,192 priests (vs 10-14)

d) 284 Levites (vs 15–18)

e) 172 gatekeepers (v 19)

f) Total Men - 3044

2. Outside of Jerusalem - villages in Judah & Benjamin (vs 20-35)

C. Significance of Listings

D. God's Commending is what counts

Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV2011) - ¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Summary/Reflection:

When we align our hearts with God's and our agenda with his, building His kingdom brings us fulfillment and joy without the need for man's recognition or approval.

Key Takeaways

1. Kingdom Builders move into action upon seeing spiritual desolation.
2. Kingdom Builders sacrifice for the advancement of the King's agenda.
3. Kingdom Builders seek to please the King alone.

NOTES

