

GOD HAS A VISION FOR YOU

FOLLOW-UP NEHEMIAH 7

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Vss. 1-4 Securing the Vision

Enemies still live

Security should not be main focus

Idolatry of vision lead to

 Turf guarding

 Close off new ideas and new individuals with new gifts

 Traditionalism rather than tradition

We halt further growth and maturity

We fail to continue seeking God's face

We empower the enemy

 Those who are selected to help secure vision

 Gatekeepers---workers

 Singers---praisers

 Levites---those who have been placed in authority

Different people in our lives have different functions

 Problems arise when we try to invest one person with all functions

Complementary not competitive

 I Corinthians 12-13

Those invested in leadership

 Human connections and outward credentials are important

 Hananiah knew and understood his brother

 Nehemiah knew that he could trust his brother

 Spiritual relationships are most important

 "More than most"

 What do we have that makes us distinctive as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ? What do we have that commends us for leadership? Only by knowing our gifts will we avoid being mismatched.

The gates were opened and closed on a schedule

 The importance of organization in spirituality

 Administration and organization are not antithetical to spirituality

 Acts 6:1-7

 This is especially the case with finances, beginning with the tithe.

There is always a dearth of those who can occupy vision.

 Matthew 9: 35-38

Vss. 5-60 Those who invest in vision are not forgotten

 The importance of giving honor where honor is due.

 I Timothy 5: 17-18

We as believers should be as diligent in honoring sacrifice and distinctive service as the world is; we should not take good leadership or followership, loyalty and love, faithfulness and commitment for granted

Vss. 61-65 The importance of Spiritual Pedigree

Not all positions are for everyone no matter the length of service or sincerity or other abilities

Nature of spiritual pedigree

Saved

Spirit filled (gifts and fruit)

Tithing

Grounded in the Word/word of God

Worshipper or praiser (Public and Private)

Heart for the people of God

Heart for the spiritual authority

Service oriented

Continuing to grow

Vision driven

Vss. 66-69 Those who secure Vision

Move beyond class

Move beyond gender distinctions

Move beyond age barriers

Move beyond position

Vss. 70-73 Importance of generous spirit among those who secure vision

Neither the pursuit nor securing of vision is for stingy people

Those who gave did so without being asked

Blessed are those who see a need and move to address it without being asked. This is grace giving because it reflects the nature and essence of God's grace.

Giving is for everyone irrespective of class, gender, age, or Position.