



June 11, 2023 Gladness

Nehemiah 12

Summary – Does God care about the gladness of His people? Nehemiah 12 would answer yes. In this chapter we see God’s leaders, the Levites, planning a glad celebration and ultimately succeeding with a people in the middle of difficult times. Mixed into the names and actions of Chapter 12 are the ingredients for gladness regardless of your circumstances.

Scripture – Nehemiah 12; Ecclesiastes 2:1-23; Psalm 150:6; Romans 8:20; Matthew 16:26; 1 John 1:7-9

Community Group Questions:

Introduction

- “It’s a sad fact of life, we grow out of gladness.”
- “Children smile and laugh 400 times per day, adults 14 times a day.”
Why is it that children find more joy in life than adults?

Recipe #1 - Thanks

- In general, humans are discontent.
How can gratitude and thanksgiving change this?

Recipe #2 - Praise

- “We give power to what we praise.”
How can praising our King pull us into our destiny?

Recipe #3 - Generosity

- “If you want to be glad, be a giver.”
What is the link between giving and gladness?

Recipe #4 - People

- “It is almost impossible to be happy without friends. Friendship accounts for almost 60 percent of all differences in happiness between individuals, no matter how introverted or extroverted they are.” - Arthur Brooks

Recipe #5 - Purification

- “Pollution (sin) gives power to the spiritual realm.”
- Why do we try to manage sin instead of confessing it to God?
- “Your soul is more valuable than the world’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).”