

VIII. Nehemiah in Biblical Perspective
The Memoirs of Nehemiah—Arise and Build
“The Lord Has Built It...Now Lead It and Fill It”

Nehemiah 7

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October 9, 2011 – Morning Sermon

We are in Nehemiah 7. I’m going to begin by reading the first four verses of Nehemiah 7. It is a glorious thing to be able to say this; Nehemiah 7:1-4, *1 Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, 2 I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. 3 And I said to them, “Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes.” 4 The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever, by His grace and mercy may it be preached for you.

This is a great Sunday. I want you to know I’m unbelievably humbled and privileged to pastor a congregation that in the midst of great difficulties in our land, has said here’s my tithe, my faith promise and here’s a sacrifice for coming generations. It’s an unbelievable joy to participate in that with you and what a glorious announcement to say we have reached our goal this Sunday. We have been trying to gage our study of Nehemiah because Nehemiah has been our model. We have been in the book of Nehemiah for two reasons. Number one it points us to Christ and in the New Testament what does it mean to rebuild the walls of the city of God and that’s where we are headed but we also said that one of the reasons the Old Testament is there is to teach us the model to how to live our life, so if we’re going to a facility expansion and renovation let’s see how Nehemiah did it. Nehemiah did it the way David did it in the days of Solomon. So we have just followed that prescription step by step and God has blessed us with this great announcement of reaching our goal. It has overflowed my heart with joy and humility in the sense of that.

Now I come to preach the passage of Scripture for this Sunday. Nehemiah 7 is a census. All the commentaries skip this chapter. I have looked at those who have preached on Nehemiah and most tend to skip Nehemiah 7 as well. You have no idea how often I tried to maneuver Nehemiah 8 for this Sunday because Nehemiah 8 is on celebration, worship, and everyone is marching around praising God. I wanted to get to Nehemiah 8 today but in the course of expositional preaching we are in Nehemiah 7. Not only is Nehemiah 7 a census but it is a repeat of a census from Ezra 2. So I had to remind myself that all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable. So I’m not going to skip. It has been very rich and helpful for me and a burden that God has laid upon my heart and the elders as we anticipate next year. This passage gives me a chance to give you a little preview.

So let’s look back in the passage. Remember the people have been in exile under God’s disciplining hand of judgment. They have been brought back in fulfillment of

God's Word from Jeremiah after 70 years. The first wave came back under Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest and they started to rebuild the temple and the altar of sacrifice. Then came another wave about 50 years later under Ezra where they were finishing up the temple, the altar and starting sacrifices but Ezra got stopped and the people began to walk away from the Lord. The people did not worship the Lord rightly and began to intermarry to pagans and engage in paganism again. They very things that sent them into exile earlier they are doing again. God raised up another man to send a third wave thirteen years after Ezra and his name is Nehemiah.

The way Nehemiah got there was he asked a question. His brother had come back from Jerusalem and he asked his brother Hanani "How are the people and how is the city?" Hanani said, "They are not doing well. The people are under reproach, under the shame of their sin. They are discouraged and distressed and the walls are still down now over 150 years since Nebuchadnezzar destroyed them. The gates are still burned. Where His Name ought to be glorified, it's a by word and the people make fun of it. All the people are bearing the shame of their sin." Then what does Nehemiah do?

Nehemiah prays. He doesn't act first, he prays. It doesn't mean you pray and don't act. No, he does both but he prays first. In Nehemiah 1 he confesses his sin and the sin the people. He calls upon God and God blesses him. Then God gives him the blessing of Artaxerxes and he goes back under royal protection and royal instruments. Nehemiah 3 describes what has happened over 52 days. Each family steps up, not equal gifts but equal sacrifice and they each build in front of their house. Those with a big house had a big wall to build, those with a small house had a small wall to build. Some wouldn't stoop to help like the Tokiates which was beneath them to sacrifice. So others heroically sacrificed even beyond them but as soon as you start getting God's mission done adversity strikes.

Here is what in Nehemiah's mind. We need to rebuild the wall and rebuild the people and rebuilding the wall will give me the chance to start rebuilding the people. As my wife Cindy and I have been walking through this faith giving there has been a lot of things we have had to reorient in our lives and spiritually it's been a great time of what sacrifices do. That's exactly what happened but when you start getting God's mission done, go to ministry, go to the wall to accomplish what God wants you to do there will be adversity. We saw seven adversity tactics that Satan does through Sanballet, Tobiah, and Gesham. We saw how they met them one after another. Nehemiah 3 is the wonderful story of how everyone is working together to get the wall built and Nehemiah 4 through 6 gives you the story behind the story of all the adversity, opposition and complaints within but the wall is built.

Now what is Nehemiah going to do next? That is where we get to Nehemiah 7. The temple of God has been rebuilt. The altar of God has been rebuilt. The walls of the city of God have been rebuilt. Nehemiah 7 is a transitional chapter and I hope you grasp why I can't skip it. It's a little tedious but I can't skip it. Let me walk you through the text quickly. The wall was over a mile long and I can just see him going back around the wall saying, "Okay what's next?" Nehemiah 7 gives you what is next because Nehemiah's mission isn't through. Nehemiah isn't just wall building but people building. So let's see what the leader does next.

He does five things in the text. In Nehemiah 7:1-3 Nehemiah appoints new leaders. The city is restored and it's time for new leadership so the next generation of

leaders he raises up. He puts Hanani and Hananiah in place. What are the two things he says about his new leaders in Nehemiah 7:1-3? One is that they are God fearing. What they do and the decisions they make in life is based upon their relationship with God. They have a respect and awe of God. They are also faithful. So Nehemiah puts the right leadership in place.

The next thing he does is he takes care of the security of the city. Why would he do that since the walls are now up? In Nehemiah 6 he defeated Sanballet, Tobiah and Gesham as they came at him with tactic after tactic after tactic but all the adversity did was go under ground. It will crop back up in Nehemiah 12 and 13. If you stay on message, in ministry and on mission adversity never quits. It may go under ground for a while but it's there. They are still threatening from outside the city of God. They still have designs to destroy the city of God. They haven't given up so Nehemiah says "Let's put some guards up. I want God's people to sense that the city of God is secure and God's people to sense protection." I want to fast forward here quickly. The New Testament church is the city of God and we always have to be on the alert because Satan is always attempting to attack. We are not only to go and take the Gospel to the nations but we are to also defend the faith. So Nehemiah puts up proper security and protection which is found in Nehemiah 7:4.

What is the third thing that Nehemiah does? He now is going to take care of the people. If I am going to do people building then I have to know who my people are. So he identifies the people and their location in this census. This is found in Nehemiah 7:5-59. Nehemiah 7:5 says *5 Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it:* In other words, the city of God is here and I need to take care of the people. So I have to know the people and where they are. So he begins the process of identifying them and their location and he realizes someone has already done this before him. Zerubbabel had done it 50 years earlier and Ezra had completed it. This same list is in Ezra 2. In Nehemiah 7 it is edited and modified a little bit but he wasn't starting from scratch. He uses what some other leaders had done before him.

Nehemiah 7:6-7 says *6 These were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town. 7 They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah.* So here were the leaders. So what are the genealogies? It starts in the later part of Nehemiah 7:7 and continues all the way to Nehemiah 7:60. So hang with me. All God's Word is profitable. When I finish you'll be able to say "Been there, done that."

Nehemiah 7:7b-60 says *The number of the men of the people of Israel: 8 the sons of Parosh, 2,172. 9 The sons of Shephatiah, 372. 10 The sons of Arah, 652. 11 The sons of Pahath-moab, namely the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818. 12 The sons of Elam, 1,254. 13 The sons of Zattu, 845. 14 The sons of Zaccai, 760. 15 The sons of Binnui, 648. 16 The sons of Bebai, 628. 17 The sons of Azgad, 2,322. 18 The sons of Adonikam, 667. 19 The sons of Bigvai, 2,067. 20 The sons of Adin, 655. 21 The sons of Ater, namely of Hezekiah, 98. 22 The sons of Hashum, 328. 23 The sons of Bezai, 324. 24 The sons of Hariph, 112. 25 The sons of Gibeon, 95. 26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188. 27 The men of*

Anathoth, 128. 28 The men of Beth-azmaveth, 42. 29 The men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743. 30 The men of Ramah and Geba, 621. 31 The men of Michmas, 122. 32 The men of Bethel and Ai, 123. 33 The men of the other Nebo, 52. 34 The sons of the other Elam, 1,254. 35 The sons of Harim, 320. 36 The sons of Jericho, 345. 37 The sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721. 38 The sons of Senaah, 3,930. 39 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, namely the house of Jeshua, 973. 40 The sons of Immer, 1,052. 41 The sons of Pashhur, 1,247. 42 The sons of Harim, 1,017. 43 The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, namely of Kadmiel of the sons of Hodevah, 74. 44 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148. 45 The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138. 46 The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, 47 the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon, 48 the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal, 49 the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, 50 the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, 51 the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, 52 the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim, 53 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, 54 the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, 55 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, 56 the sons of Nezhiah, the sons of Hatipha. 57 The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, 58 the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, 59 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon. 60 All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392.

Praise the Lord! I'm not through because there is another group that will come up in just a moment but first is the identification and location of God's people which I just finished reading. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep and so Nehemiah is going to rebuild the people of God but he knows the people of God and the location of the people of God.

A fourth thing that Nehemiah does is not only put new leadership that fears God and is faithful but it's time to get rid of disobedient, unfaithful leadership. Nehemiah 7:61-65 says *61 The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but they could not prove their fathers' houses nor their descent, whether they belonged to Israel: (In other words, they had been unfaithful and had engaged in pagan life and marriage so they had no covenant faithfulness and had been disobedient. Who were they?) 62 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642. 63 Also, of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name). 64 These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but it was not found there, so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. 65 The governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food until a priest with Urim and Thummim should arise.*

So they were allowed to stay among God's people but they were purged from the leadership because they had been disobedient and unfaithful. Leadership is not a right. It's a privilege attached to the progress of God's grace in your life. So he not only puts in those who fear the Lord and are faithful as new leaders, he purges with discipline the old leaders who had led them astray, not only their own lives and their own families but God's people.

Then we come to the fifth and final thing which is the account of the sacrificial giving of the leaders and people. Nehemiah 7:66-73 says **66** *The whole assembly together was 42,360, 67 besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337. And they had 245 singers, male and female. 68 Their horses were 736, their mules 245, 69 their camels 435, and their donkeys 6,720. 70 Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver. 71 And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver. 72 And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments. 73 So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.*

What is he saying here? Do you remember what Nehemiah did? Nehemiah publically declared he was going to give to the Lord and now the leaders give sacrificially and then the people give sacrificially and then they all have embraced the project together. That is exactly the model we have followed. I just want to say again I am humbled and overwhelmed that what I know went through in the lives of so many people who thoughtfully and sacrificially said “God, what is our sacrifice, not equal gifts but equal sacrifice” and prayed through it. I know some with means gave very sacrificially. I don’t know names and numbers and don’t know that I’m strong enough as a leader to know those things but I have been given testimonies of how some with means have said “It’s not the next egg but the nest, so we’re going to give and we’re not just going to give superficially but sacrificially. What is it we can sacrifice?” Then I know there are some without means that also began to do that. After the announcement last week that we were 1.2 million shy, we got a letter that someone wanted to change their commitment to \$108 more. When I heard that I knew there was somebody that had done some real searching and sacrificing in their heart and wanted to see things happen in the life of these kids.

That took place on all kinds of levels and that’s what is happening here. Nehemiah is governor and here are the leaders and their clans. Then here comes everyone else. They are able to move forward and now the kingdom of God is supplied with the sacrificial gifts of the people and they are ready now to start doing people building, having done the wall building. In fact, in the wall building a lot of people building started getting done as God works in the lives of His people.

Here are some lessons from Nehemiah as a leader but as a leader that points to Christ I want to initiate here for you. I want to give you three maxims from this text to help you download this. The first maxim is leaders know their mission and are irrevocably committed to achieving it. When Nehemiah starts his mission it’s not just to build a wall but to build the people. In the first six chapters through much opposition the hand of God has been with them and they strengthen their hands and now the wall has been built. Now it’s time to turn to the people and take care of them. Leaders know their mission and are irrevocably committed to achieving it. A leader is not someone who comes to get a job or to get a title. A leader comes to do a job. A Christian leader comes to do a job and do God’s job; to get that job done among God’s people for God’s glory and they pour themselves out as a drink offering to accomplish that.

It wasn't that Nehemiah wanted to go down as the great wall builder of Jerusalem. No, that was step one. Now we are ready for step two. He goes from wall building to people building. God didn't call him just to put the wall around the city. Praise God the temple, altar and the city of God has its walls but now it's the people of God who will give glory to God. Now he puts his mind and heart towards the people. They need new leaders, protection and to get rid of the old leaders who led them astray. He needs to know them and where they are and what's going on in their life.

In my office I have the portraits of my heroes one of which is George Washington Carver who God called to do two things. He said, "God called me to lead this first generation of emancipated slaves into life with education and productivity to the glory of God" and the second thing was his southland which was being destroyed by tobacco and cotton. He said that something had to be done about it. I have the picture of him working in the laboratory he built and you look at what he did. In order to accomplish that he teamed up with a man named Booker T. Washington and put one of the greatest colleges that has ever been existence into place, Tuskegee University. He got some calls away from the wall and the mission of people building, of south building and all that God had called him to do. Thomas Edison offered him over \$100,000. Henry Ford offered him over \$100,000. He prayed about it.

Do you know how quickly I would have taken that job? Praise the Lord the year of Jubilee has come! That's what I would have done but he prayed about it and both times he said "God didn't call me to that" so he stayed at what God called him to do for \$1500 a year at that university. We are still getting the blessings from it today. Nobody grew peanuts but he found 332 uses to grow a peanut and make money. He could take one peanut and make two quarts of milk out of it. He did so much more than that but he was unbelievable. He said, "I do not know why anyone cannot know what God has called them to do. If you want to know your mission you just have to know your God." I'm paraphrasing this but he also said "The key to knowing God's mission for our life is to put God at the center of your life." Then he simply quotes what we are preaching from tonight in Proverbs and that is "Trust in the Lord, acknowledge Him in all your ways, He will direct your paths."

If I can just keep the idols out of my life, I'll know what my mission is. If I can just say 'no, I'm not living for money, power, acclaim but I'm living for the Lord and I want to acknowledge the Lord in all my ways' then He'll show me the way I'm supposed to be going. George Washington Carver, how do you do that? Here is how he did that. He got up at 4am every morning because he said he didn't hear anyone else's voice then and he met his Lord that he might be on target. Nothing else directed his ways, like not even football, money, or technology. All of those things can be enjoyed if they are not the center of my life but He is my life and I acknowledge Him, then He directs my paths.

The second maxim a leader does is leaders know their people and they are committed to taking care of them. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep and they know His voice. They know their people and take care of them. Their people aren't something that they use. So it is that Nehemiah wants to know where these people are, their identification, their location, their family, their background and everything.

The third maxim is leaders multiply and mobilize the next generation of qualified leaders. God has given us the wall, now it's time for the next generation. Hanani and Hananiah come up here. We want leaders who fear the Lord and are faithful to Him. By

the way, we have some other leaders we need to purge out of here. So leaders multiply and mobilize the next generation of qualified leaders, those who live with Him at the center of their life. Not only has God gifted them but they have given themselves to the Lord.

I'm going to tie a few things together here. Teddy Roosevelt who is another hero of mine developed a relationship with George Washington Carver's boss. George Washington Carver never thought he was his boss he really was and his name was Booker T. Washington who is one of the most amazingly insightful men I've ever read about. Booker goes to Tuskegee like Carver. The next generation of slaves benefited the South and within about fifteen years the very people who couldn't stand him being there with this school for these freed slaves began to work on the place for him. He just won people over left and right, all the time and he stayed on mission. He said "We're not asking you for a seat at the table" when he spoke of the first of the freed slaves. He said, "We're going to make the table, sell you the table and you'll like this table so much you'll invite us to the table." That's exactly what happened to him when he was the first African American invited to a lunch at the White House under Teddy Roosevelt.

When Roosevelt came under criticism for that Roosevelt invited him back. Then he put him on his leadership team to find people like Booker T. Washington for the South in appointments. This is what Teddy Roosevelt said about a leader. "Leaders find leaders and then they get out of the way and let them lead, while taking care of them so they can lead." That's the way he saw a Booker T. Washington. He found a leader that could lead and he multiplied himself and mobilized him. Then he empowered him and went into the work. That's exactly what our Savior does.

Our Savior comes down and takes this 70, 12 and 3 and does a great work of putting them in place. Then He empowers them and equips them and then sends them out to accomplish the task. So we find Nehemiah pointing to Christ, this Christ who knew His mission and wouldn't be stopped. The one thing Satan wanted to do is to keep Jesus from dying for our sins on the cross. He went there and defeated the evil one and now He takes care of His people. Jesus said "Father, all of whom You have given Me, I lose not one of them." Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. He takes care of his people and look how he is multiplying his leaders for the benefit of his people.

What is the key here in Nehemiah 7? Here is the takeaway I want to leave you with. The city of God is built up, to be filled up with the people of God. Nehemiah 7:4 says *4 The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.* Nehemiah is first going to take care of those who are there but from here to the end of the book Nehemiah is finding a way to populate the city of God. God has built it up so that it might be filled up. Watch that pattern in Scripture.

You see it in creation. The key place to find the story of creation is in Genesis 1 and 2. In the six days of creation what are the first three days? In the first three days there is light, darkness, heavens, earth, land and sea. God is building up the creation. What are the next three days? He fills it up. In the light and darkness He puts sun, moon and stars. Then He puts these birds in the heavens. He fills the ground with vegetation. The last thing He does is makes man in His image, male and female. Then what does He tell us to do? God said "I have built it up and now I want you to fill it up." Go be fruitful and multiply. Fill up the earth.

Then we fall into sin and He brings judgment. He cleanses the earth and rebuilds the earth. Then He lets Noah out of the ark with his household. Then He says “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill it up.” Or there is the Good Shepherd who puts the flock together and says “Now I’m going to bring sheep from all of these flocks into My flock. I’m going to fill it up.” Or there is the man who has the banquet table as the great king and he invites people to it. He goes out into the highways and byways and compels people to come into the table. “I built up the table now let’s fill up the table.”

That is where Nehemiah is. The city has been built up so now let’s fill it up with the people of God. Now fast forward to Jesus who Nehemiah is pointing to. Jesus has come into the world and accomplished His mission. He has built up the Kingdom of God. He has purchased the city of God. In the New Testament that’s the church of God. He has purchased it with His own blood. He has re-ascended back to heaven now what does He tell the disciples? As the Father sent Me so send I you. What did Jesus do when He came? It’s a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He is gone and now He says “you go do what I came to do. Go, preach the Gospel to all the nations. Go, make disciples of all the nations. I have built it up and brought the Kingdom to this world. I have established its capital, the church, the city of God, now you whom I have purchased go.” It needs leaders, protection and all of those things. Go fill it up and preach the Gospel.

We are like that woman that lost a coin. When she lost it she wanted to find it. So she lit a light to look for it. She couldn’t find it so she quit, right? No, she then looked diligently by getting on her hands and knees. She still couldn’t find it. She looked with a lamp and found it. Notice how she intensifies her search. When she finds it she rejoices. I believe that is what we have been called to do. Here is a preview of next year. I want us to focus on this seeking of the lost, evangelism, to be and do what God has called us to do. I want us to move forward. When Jesus ascended He said ‘go’ and what did they do? They went to Jerusalem and 3,000 came. People were being saved everyday. Then just a few days later 5,000 come. Then they go to Antioch, Judea, and Samaria and to Ephesus. They turned the whole world upside down. Then there is the Reformation, the Great Awakening and this Gospel is going throughout all the world.

It’s moving that this very testimony of the city of God is being filled up from the city of man. The city of man is all around us. Go to the city of men and bring them to the city of God with the Good News that Jesus saves. That is what He has called us to do. Here is an illustration. We built the Youth Barn, why? It wasn’t to build a Youth Barn but for youth to go to the youth barn. They will be invited and they will find out about Jesus. They will fill it up and then we’ll send them out. The same will happen with the Children’s Worship Center. We’ll fill it up and send them out. In the church of Jesus Christ, Christ has planted it victoriously. I’ll build My church. The gates of hell will not prevail against it. I built it and now I’m using you to go out and fill it. Let’s take the Gospel to men and women all around the world. Just think about it.

As we move into this coming year what would happen if all of us took the time to do personal evangelism, sharing my faith in Christ with lost people? Right now in the PCA it takes 186 people one year to win one person to Christ. What would happen if each one of us would reach one? What would happen if you took your small group and a couple a times a year you invite people you are sharing Christ with to attend your small

group and we'll have some evangelism for these four weeks? What would happen if you decided to start a six week evangelistic Bible Study in your neighborhood or your office?

When I was a kid going to the Christian Missionary Alliance Church we knew nobody was leaving until somebody went forward. There were so many verses we would sing of "Just As I Am" it would be forever. Do you know why it took so long to get somebody to go forward? There are two things you need to know here. Back then the Sunday evening service was the "evangelistic" service. The problem was that we weren't bringing any unbelievers to the service so we were all getting saved over and over again. What would happen if we could take a month of Sunday nights or two months and we have that "evangelistic" service? We are not trying to get each other saved all over but we're bringing people who don't know Christ.

See the heavens, God has built up His Kingdom. Go look at the book of Revelation. See the heavens, it's filled up with yonder throng, angels saved, men and women from every tribe and nation giving praise to God from the city of God because the people of God went to the city of man and brought them to Christ. Go, go, go, let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. I do thank You so much for blessing us as a congregation. It's been a great time of announcements of Your grace and mercy working sacrificially in the hearts of Your people but God we're not just building things up. We want to fill them up by bringing people to Christ that the Kingdom might be expanded as the city of God is filled up. Lord, we are looking just like Nehemiah. There were few people in comparison to the lost in the city of man. May we go to the city of God, the temple of God, the sacrifice of God, Jesus Christ the Savior. Friend if you have never come to that Savior may I encourage you to pray this prayer, "Jesus I come to You, from the city of man and its death to the city of God and its life. I come to Christ. I put my trust in Him alone." For you who know Christ, we're here to help those who don't and let's go, search, light the lamp, sweep the floor and bring men and women from death to life, sin to the Savior, I pray this in Jesus' Name, Father, Amen.