

## The Reign of Christ the King ~ Sunday, November 22, 2015

“A Time to Build: Lessons From the Book of Nehemiah ~

The Call to Commitment”

Nehemiah 10; Romans 12:1-8

“The people responded, In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders, levites, and priests.” (Nehemiah 9:38)

It wasn't just about confession and repentance—what they had done—the people wanted a record to show what they were \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. What they were willing to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

It was a vow from them to \_\_\_\_\_.

A vow of faithfulness in \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

A vow to be the people God had \_\_\_\_\_ them to be.

A vow to \_\_\_\_\_ from sinful actions and not allow their \_\_\_\_\_ desires to overcome them.

A vow that they would put God \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives.

A vow is a solemn \_\_\_\_\_ made to God to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ from performing a certain thing. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ promise which, when once made, was to be \_\_\_\_\_.

“When a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.” (Numbers 30:2)

“When you make a vow to God, do not delay fulfilling it; for he has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill what you vow.” (Ecclesiastes 5:4)

Since a vow involved the name and possible judgement of God, it was not to be taken \_\_\_\_\_.

“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No’.” (Matthew 5:37)

### 4 VOWS THE PEOPLE MADE TO GOD

#1. \_\_\_\_\_ to God's \_\_\_\_\_.

“They swore a curse on themselves if they failed to obey the Law of God as issued by his servant Moses. They solemnly promised to carefully follow all the commands, regulations, and decrees of the Lord our God...” (Nehemiah 10:29)

they were so serious in their commitment to God and His Word that they were willing to have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God fall on them if they didn't obey what it said.

**Do we have the same level of commitment, devotion, and submission to God's Word?**

#2. \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.

“We promise not to let our daughters marry the pagan people of the land, and not to let our sons marry their daughters.” (Nehemiah 10:28-30)

Separation is simply total \_\_\_\_\_ to God, without counting the \_\_\_\_\_.

**How often do we allow the things of the world to distract us from the things of God?**

#3. \_\_\_\_\_ for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

“We also promise that if the people of the land should bring any merchandise or grain to be sold on the Sabbath or on any other holy day, we will refuse to buy it...” (Nehemiah 10:31)

**How do we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy?**

#4. \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### 6 WAYS TO DESCRIBE THE PEOPLE'S GIVING

#1. It was \_\_\_\_\_ giving.

#2. It was \_\_\_\_\_ giving.

#3. It was \_\_\_\_\_ giving.

#4. It was \_\_\_\_\_ giving.

#5. It was \_\_\_\_\_ giving.

First fruits =

#6. It was \_\_\_\_\_ giving.

Tithe =

**How will we respond to God's goodness? What kind of a commitment are we willing to make as individuals and as a church community?**

**What does it mean for us to give Jesus first place in our lives—to let Him reign in our hearts; our lives; our church?**

“I appeal to you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable

service. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” (Romans 12:1)

In order to make this kind of commitment—in order to present ourselves to God as living sacrifices we need to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

### COMMITTING MY LIFE TO GOD & GIVING JESUS 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

**#1. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Don’t be nitpickers, but use your head and heart to discern what is right, to test what is authentically true.” (John 7:24)

“Make sure that the light you think you have is not really darkness.” (Luke 11:35)

**#2. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“You are the world’s salt to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavour, what will happen to the world?” (Matthew 5:13)

**#3. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 3:5)

“God blesses those who realize their need for Him.” (Matthew 5:3)

**#4. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Matthew 12:15)

“We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” (1 Timothy 6:7)

“How do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul in the process?” (Matthew 16:26)

**#5. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“The just shall live by faith.” (Hebrews 10:38)

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)

“According to your faith it will be done unto you.” (Matthew 9:29)

“With God everything is possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

“Nothing is impossible for God.” (Luke 1:37)

### 3 QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- In what area or areas of your life are you limiting God by your unbelief?
- What needs changing in your life?
- What are you waiting for?

**#6. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

“You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer.” (Matthew 5:44)

“Do not judge and you won’t be judged. Do not condemn and you won’t be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37)

**#7. Committing my life to God and giving Jesus first place means living with \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Seek first the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Luke 12:30)

“If your first concern is to look after yourself, you’ll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and you look to Me you’ll find both yourself and Me.” (Matthew 10:39)

†

“Give yourselves completely to God to be used for his purposes.” (Romans 6:13)

“The world has yet to see what God can do in and through, and for the person who is totally committed to Christ.” ~British Revivalist Henry Varley

**What might God do in and through you?**

**What kind of commitment are you prepared to make?**