

SERMON NOTES

SERMON DATE: **Sunday, March 8, 2020 - AM Service**
SERMON TITLE: **A Picture of Giving**
PREACHER: **PASTOR BRENT SNOOK**
BIBLE TEXT: **Nehemiah 10:32-39**

Background of Nehemiah 10

- Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem
- The people renew their covenant with God
- Part of the covenant was to pledge to God the **first fruits** of everything
- Their priority: giving to God and supporting the Temple

Bible text: Nehemiah 10:32-39

The more God gives you, the more you give away

Additional Bible reading:

- Deuteronomy 15:10
- Proverbs 11:24-25
- Luke 6:38
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

1. The Preeminence of Giving

Read Nehemiah 10:35-37

God's people were to give the first fruits of

- Their ground
- Their fruit
- Their sons
- Their cattle
- Their herds
- Their dough

2. The Plan of Giving

Read Nehemiah 10:34

– “We cast lots among the priests – the Levites – and the people for the wood offering to bring it into the house of our God...**at times appointed year by year.**”

We still need to plan in order to keep the preeminence of giving

The Israelites had a plan and a purpose. So did the New Testament saints:

1 Corinthians 16:2 – “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Every man according as he **purposeth** in his heart, so let him give...”

“Purposeth”- to choose beforehand (to plan, pray and prepare)

3. The Proportion of Giving

Read Nehemiah 10:37-38

TITHE = 10%

The 3 tithes in the Old Testament:

1. Temple tithe (annual 10% given to the Lord to support the Levites in the temple)
2. Festival tithe (recorded in Deut. 4 – given to finance the annual feasts that the Jews celebrated; no man was allowed to neglect his service to God by pleading poverty)
3. Benevolence tithe (collected every 3rd year for the poor)

A miserly man is a miserable man.

A generous man is a joyful man.

Luke 16:10 – “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Proverbs 11:24 – “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”

C. S. Lewis – In ***Mere Christianity*** wrote:

“The only safe way of giving is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say our expenditures are too small. There ought to be things that we’d like to do and cannot do because our charities and expenditures excludes them.”

4. The Purpose of Giving

Why did the people give?

They had a profound sense of purpose: **to keep the fires of the altar burning** (Neh. 10:34)

“It is written...”: giving was an act of obedience to God’s word

Why give?

- God has given so much to me – I want to give back
- God commands me to give – I want to obey Him in all I do
- Giving gets my priorities in order by putting God first in everything
- Giving draws me closer to God as my faith grows
- Giving allows me to bless others who have been less fortunate

4. The Place of Giving

Nehemiah 10:39 – they gave to support the house of God

Notice the many references to the “house of God” (Nehemiah 10: 32-39)

God has always established a central place for corporate worship.

All our giving doesn’t go to the church – but the priority and the greatest percentage of it does.

5. The Pleasure of Giving

Nehemiah 10:39

Generosity isn't a "one-and-done" situation: it's a lifestyle and brings great pleasure.

The heartbeat of God is giving.

2. Renew Your Thoughts

Ephesians 4:17-24

- Our mind is the **control center** of our actions
- We must saturate our minds with God's Word
- A fierce battle is waged against the mind

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – Paul speaks of the warfare concerning the thought life

A. Satan's Desire (2 Corinthians 11:3, Genesis 6:5-7)

B. Satan's Devices (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The Unguarded Doors that Satan will Enter

1. The perverse mind
2. The passive mind

C. Satan's Defeat (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

The Weapons To Use:

1. For the perverse mind – there is repentance
2. For the passive mind – there is resistance (James 4:7)
3. For the polluted mind – there is renewal (Ephesians 4:23)

**REDEEM YOUR TIME.
RENEW YOUR THOUGHTS.**