

**Sermon 07:** "Counting for God"

**Scripture:** [Nehemiah 7: 1-73](#)

**Theme:** *To count for God, commit yourself to the things that matter to God.*

As we open Nehemiah 7, we see yet another long list of names. Does this look similar to [Nehemiah 3](#)? Yet, if you read closely, you will notice that there are even less details to go along with these names. One could be left asking, "What is the point in this chapter" again. However, looking at the whole council of Scripture we can see the following.

### **Worship Matters**

The task is done! Finally the wall is built and Jerusalem is now secure. Right away in verse 1, we see Nehemiah appointing the singers to come and worship the Lord. Worship has happened all throughout this project (serving, singing, praying..etc.) and we see it continuing as the wall is finished<sup>1</sup>.

When was the last time you sat back and worshiped God for his faithfulness to you? When was the last time while you were in the car sang your heart out unto the Lord? When was the last time you were reading Scripture, and the words you were reading were so sweet that you had to set it down and praise Him for simply being the God of the Universe?

### **Godly Character Matters to God (7:2-3)**

In verses two and three; we see how Nehemiah entrusts the charge of Jerusalem to his brother Hanani. We see that because Hanani was a God fearing man who was faithful to God, Nehemiah selected this man to lead Jerusalem. If we believe [2 Timothy 3:16](#) that all Scripture is God breathed and [1 Timothy 3](#) (that God chooses to use this kind of man to lead His church), then according to Nehemiah 7 and the rest of Scripture, our character then matters to God.

If you were to ask someone to describe your character, what do you think the response would be, honestly? Would they say things like Nehemiah did about his brother: God-fearing and faithful? Or would we hear something else? Would you hear words like he or she is nice, easygoing, fun loving? While these things are nice, and would make anyone feel good about them to hear, is this the kind of character that Scripture calls us to? Or is there something more to this that we are missing out on, or not striving for?

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<sup>1</sup> [Romans 12:1](#)

## **People Matter to God (7:4-73)**

The next thing we notice is that people matter to God. After all Jesus had this to say in [Luke 12:7](#) “*Why even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, you are of more value than many sparrows.*” So if God knows all the hairs on our head and that we have deep value in his sight, then we can understand clearer why Jesus Christ came to die for us. After all, the famous [John 3:16-17](#) talks about how much God loves his children that He sent His only Son to come and die in our place, for us! Since [Genesis 3:15](#), we see a God who is jealous after His people<sup>2</sup>.

If this is the lens that God looks at us through (the atoning work of Jesus Christ) and we are now no longer looked at as objects of wrath, but as children of God<sup>3</sup>, what does this mean for us as image-bearers of God? What does it look like as people who have been adopted<sup>4</sup> into this Kingdom of grace to be Gospel bearers who love their neighbor as themselves<sup>5</sup>? How are you doing Sunday mornings, and the rest of the week for that matter, at getting to know peoples names? When was the last time you initiated a conversation with someone new to Missio Dei Church? Do you look for them? How can we encourage you to have these potentially awkward conversations?

## **Place in God's family history matter to God (7:4-73)**

Voddie Baucham in his book *What He Must Be...If He Wants to Marry My Daughter* had this to say in his opening chapter when talking about a multigenerational legacy:

*“One area where this vision [a multigenerational legacy] is taking hold is in our family's understanding of marriage, family, and manhood and womanhood. Think about it. If we think multigenerationally, that has to impact the way we view marriage and family. Where do these multiple generations come from if not through marriage and the family?”*

*Thus I can no longer view my role in raising sons, and daughters merely as an eighteen-year sentence to be endured. If I have a multigenerational vision for my family, then my role in fathering my children is a lifelong partnership in kingdom expansion. These truths force us to adjust our thinking in regard to what we are*

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<sup>2</sup> [Deuteronomy 6:15](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Ephesians 2:1-8](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Ephesians 1:3-6](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Matthew 5:43-48](#)

*teaching our daughters to expect and our sons to become in regard to biblical manhood.<sup>6</sup>*

This idea of a multigenerational legacy should be nothing new to us. For example look at the way Matthew opens up his Gospel in [chapter 1](#), look at [2 Timothy 1:5](#) where Paul talks about Timothy's faithfulness due to Timothy's grandmother and mother. Going into the old Testament we have numerous genealogies that tell the story of where people were placed in history. Most commonly is the [Abrahamic covenant](#), where God tells Abraham that from his line will come the Messiah.

So what are we to do with these? We are to first actually read these names, even if we cannot pronounce them. These names are men and women who have gone before us to lay the foundation we now have. We are to learn from these people and their place in history, so that we can discern our future. Second thing we must do is wrestle with where we fall in this history, carrying on/out this idea of multigenerational legacy. We need to study with work of our early church fathers, our great grandparents, and our parents for the work that they have done for us in bringing us up in the Kingdom. We are to wrestle with where God would have us and what He would be teaching us.

### **Questions to think about:**

1. How does a person discover exactly who he or she is in the Lord?
2. Can we go too far in fearing God? Is the fear of God in tension with or in harmony with the love of God?
3. How can a man who feels spiritually inferior to his wife give proper leadership to his family? Or should the wife lead in such cases?
4. If all these names matter to God, shouldn't every Christian make an effort to learn the names of new people at church? How can a person who struggles with this overcome it?

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<sup>6</sup> Jr., Voddie Baucham. [What He Must Be...If He Wants To Marry my Daughter](#). Wheaton: Crossway, 2009.