

In Honor of Willing Unknowns

Scripture: Nehemiah 11
(02-15-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

Nehemiah 11 focuses on the resettlement of Jerusalem after its wall was finally rebuilt. It highlights the themes of willing sacrifice, communal responsibility, and the importance of service in restoring God's holy city. It emphasizes the "willing unknowns" those who chose to live for God faithfully amidst great risks by volunteering which is a reminder that God uses all His people and remembers every faithful act.

God's people learn important lessons as they live faithfully: (1) We are valuable, even though not popular; (2) We are remembered, never forgotten by God; (3) We are rewarded on the basis of personal faithfulness, not public applause.

Are you willing to be "drafted" or to volunteer for the "undesirable" tasks if they serve God's mission? Growth happens when we commit to a local body, using our "time, talent, and treasure" to build the community. Bless those who are serving and taking risks. Your "blessing" (prayer, practical support) sustains those on the front lines.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Neh 11:2 mentions those who "willingly offered themselves" to live in the city and were blessed by the people. What is the difference between being "drafted" for a task and volunteering for it?
2. Why was living in Jerusalem considered a sacrifice or "pioneer" duty at this time?
3. Neh 11:16 mentions those in charge of the "outside work of the house of God." How can we apply the idea of "spiritual work" to common, non- tasks in our daily lives?
4. This chapter contains a long list of names that may seem repetitive. What does this careful cataloging tell us about how God views individuals and their specific roles in His plan?