



The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, as well as the priests.... The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah. And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

Nehemiah 12:40-43

God cares more about their heart than their hardware.

A spirit of surrender leads to confession.



Honest confession leads to heartfelt obedience.



Heartfelt obedience results in unrestrained joy.

A wall isn't worth celebrating if it doesn't surround surrendered people.

They Reordered Their Relationships

When the people heard this law, they excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.

Nehemiah 13:3

They Reordered Their Relationships

Some time later I asked his permission and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room.

Nehemiah 13:6b-8

They Reordered Their Relationships

Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?

Nehemiah 13:23, 26-27

They Reordered Their Resources Nehemiah 13:10–14

I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and musicians responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. So I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts. All Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine and olive oil into the storerooms. I put Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a Levite named Pedaiah in charge of the storerooms and made

They Reordered Their Resources

Hanan son of Zakkur, the son of Mattaniah, their assistant, because they were considered trustworthy. They were made responsible for distributing the supplies to their fellow Levites. Remember me for this, my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services.

Nehemiah 13:10-14

They Reordered Their Rest Nehemiah 13:15-18, 22

In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. People from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this wicked

They Reordered Their Rest

thing you are doing—desecrating the Sabbath day? Didn't your ancestors do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity on us and on this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath." Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Nehemiah 13:15-18, 22

