

Recap of 6/30/19 (Nehemiah 11:1-36):

1. Nehemiah 11 shows us that sometimes sacrifice is required of God's people to see His will fulfilled. Secondly it shows us that true significance is found in fulfilling the role which God has assigned to me, whether a visible, public role or a private one.
2. It should be no surprise that the God who made His Only Son the "atoning sacrifice" for our sins (1 John 2:2; 4:10) calls His people to sacrifice for Him. (See also Romans 3:25, "God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement.") It leads us to ask: "What would I sacrifice to follow God? To see His will fulfilled?"
3. The One Year NLT Study Bible does a great job of summarizing the situation facing the Israelites in Nehemiah 11. "The exiles who returned were few in number compared to Jerusalem's earlier population in the days of the kings, so the city seemed sparsely populated. Nehemiah asked one-tenth of the people from the outlying areas to move inside the city walls to keep large areas of the city from being vacant. Apparently these people did not want to move into the city. Only a few people volunteered, so Nehemiah determined by sacred lot who else would have to move. Despite their misgivings, the people submitted their personal preferences to God's will as discerned by sacred lot. The people were moved to obey God and to work for the good of God's people, represented by Jerusalem. They lived by faith and moved from the outlying areas into the city of Jerusalem. ... We too must regularly choose to submit to God's will when He chooses us. And we must regularly surrender our own preference to promote the good of others."
4. We as believers must learn to live the Philippians 2 way of life, following the example of our Savior, setting aside the desire to have our own way, putting others' needs ahead of our own. The Message paraphrase of Philippians 2:3-4 this way: "Don't push your way to the front, don't sweet talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand."