

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 12:1-47 **(September 30, 2026)**

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The priests in Nehemiah's day were required to maintain a higher standard of purity and holiness before leading the people in worship — in what ways do you think spiritual leaders today are held to a similar standard, and how does that responsibility affect the broader community of faith?
2. Nehemiah led the leaders of Judah up onto the wall before appointing the two great choirs, modeling servant leadership by going before the people — how does the example of a leader who goes first challenge or inspire your understanding of spiritual leadership in your own life?
3. The two choirs processed around the entire wall, including down to the Dung Gate, suggesting that even the most unclean or overlooked parts of the city needed to be covered in worship and prayer — what areas of your own life or community do you tend to exclude from your worship and surrender to God?
4. The sermon draws a sharp contrast between those who worship outwardly while living in hidden sin and those who genuinely confess, repent, and turn back to God — how honest are you with yourself and with God about the gap between your public worship and your private life?
5. The high priest tearing his robes during Jesus' trial is presented as a direct violation of the Law he was sworn to uphold — what does it reveal about the danger of allowing religious tradition and institutional power to override genuine obedience to God's Word?
6. James 4:17 reminds us that knowing the right thing to do and failing to do it is itself a sin — how does the concept of sins of omission challenge you to move beyond simply avoiding wrongdoing and toward actively pursuing righteousness?
7. The entire community — priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, leaders, women, and children — participated in the dedication of the wall, each fulfilling a specific role — what does this picture of unified, structured community worship reveal about what the church is meant to look like today?
8. The joy of Jerusalem was heard far away after the dedication of the wall, suggesting that authentic corporate worship produces a witness that extends beyond the walls of the gathering — in what ways does the quality and sincerity of your church's worship reflect outward to your surrounding community?
9. The sermon notes that all the sacrifices, purification rituals, and acts of worship in Nehemiah foreshadow the redemption accomplished through the sacrificial death of Christ — how does understanding the Old Testament's shadow of Christ deepen your appreciation for what Jesus accomplished on the cross?