

Resettlement {4} of Porters

Nehemiah 11:19

Note 1;

The Porters

Neh 11:19 Moreover the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren that kept the gates, were an hundred seventy and two.

Consider:

1. Their Job.

Porters or Doorkeepers.

Maybe not as central a role as the priests but essential no doubt.

Illus:

I worked for 5 years as a Porter.

Many people who stayed in that hotel would have never met the manager but many of them met me.

Sometimes we judge a Job by its prestige rather than its usefulness.

Consider:

At this very moment there is men working to provide the electricity we need to read our Bibles.

You would never have thought of them if I had not said this.

Consider:

Very few people are willing to do the basic/menial tasks in the Church.

Q. What should our attitude be?

Compare:

Psa 84:10

“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

Contrast:

3Jn 1:9

*I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, **who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.***

2nd.

Their Names.

“Akkub, Talmon”

Q. What do these names mean?

“Akkub”

‘aqqûb

ak-koob'

From H6117; **insidious**; *Akkub*, the name of five Israelites: - Akkub.

Meaning:

Dict:

“slowly and subtly harmful or destructive”

Imagine that being your name!

App:

So, not only did these men have the less glamorous jobs, they had by far the less glorious names.

“Talmon”

Means:

“oppressive”

Meaning:

Dict:

“imposing a harsh or cruel form of domination”

Consider:

These men had to rise above their circumstances and their names in order to be faithful to their God.

App:

The same is true for us.

Compare:

1Co 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1Co 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

App:

We do not live by the standards of our past life and name.

3rd

The importance of their Job.

Compare:

1 Chronicles 9:17-27

Note:

- 1. They kept the gate through which the King entered.**

1Ch 9:17 And the porters were, Shallum, and Akkub, and Talmon, and Ahiman, and their brethren: Shallum was the chief;

1Ch 9:18 Who hitherto waited in the king's gate eastward: they were porters in the companies of the children of Levi.

2. They protected and kept order.

1Ch 9:19 And Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, of the house of his father, the Korahites, were over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle: and their fathers, being over the host of the LORD, were keepers of the entry.

Adam Clarke

"Whose business it was to suffer no person to come to the tabernacle but the priests, during the performance of the sacred service"

App:

This is still true for the Church today.

Compare:

1Co 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

We must keep out of the Church worship services anything that will in-danger the clear and distinct ordinances of God.

3. Their Connection and Origin to God's Ministers and God's Word.

1Ch 9:20 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar was the ruler over them in time past, and the LORD was with him.

1Ch 9:21 And Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was porter of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

“Phinehas”

Was the grandson of Aaron.

The grand-nephew of Moses.

It was he who was over them.

Consider:

“and the LORD was with him.”

Note:

If the Lord was with him, he will be with all who submit to him and his God.

The Targum says,

{The Targums were explanations of the Hebrew Scriptures in Chaldaic (Western Aramaic) for the benefit of those Jews who had partially or completely ceased to understand the sacred tongue.}

“And Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, was ruler over them from ancient times, from the day in which the tabernacle was set up in the wilderness; and the Word of the Lord was his assistant.”

I really like that phrase:

“and the Word of the Lord was his assistant.”

Q. Is God’s word our assistant in our service for him?

4th

Their role was important because of who appointed it.

1Ch 9:22 All these which were chosen to be porters in the gates were two hundred and twelve. These were reckoned by their genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer did ordain in their set office.

App:

This is why in the Church we must only have officers and offices which are Prescribed in the word.

Also:

If we do not have offices filled the church is lacking in what God requires.

Compare:

Tit 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

5th;

It was important because of posterity.

1Ch 9:23 So they and their children had the oversight of the gates of the house of the LORD, namely, the house of the tabernacle, by wards.

Consider:

Imagine being the first generation to fail in your responsibilities.

Voddie Baucham:

Speaks of a “multi-generational vision.”

This is what David and Samuel had.

For the nation!

Q. do we have that for our families and Churches?

6th;

It was important because of the dimensions of the responsibility.

1Ch 9:24 In four quarters were the porters, toward the east, west, north, and south.

Consider:

They were not just off to one side somewhere but were stationed at all sides of the house of God.

7th;

It was important because of the organization of the Role.

1Ch 9:25 And their brethren, which were in their villages, were to come after seven days from time to time with them.

App:

We must be attentive to this need in the church.

Q. are we watching out for each other?

We all get tired and weary.

We must watch for each other!

Consider:

How the Lord Jesus was concerned for his disciples physical state.

Compare:

{After the twelve had been sent out and returned}

We read:

Mar 6:31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

One Paraphrase of our passage in 1 chron.

Puts it this way:

1Ch 9:25 And their kinsmen who were in their villages were obligated to come in every seven days, in turn, to be with these,

Compare:

Our Lord's words to Peter:

Luk 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

8th

It was important because of the stewardship of the Role.

1Ch 9:26 for the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted to be over the chambers and the treasures of the house of God.

Compare:

1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Pe 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

9th

It was Important because of its Proximity and Priority to the service of God's House.

1Ch 9:27 And they lodged round about the house of God, because the charge was upon them, and the opening thereof every morning pertained to them.

App:

Q. In your heart, how close do you dwell to God's house?

We are exhorted to:

1Th 5:17
"Pray without ceasing"

May we never go to far away from the service of god's house.

Amen.