

Nehemiah 12:42b-43

The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director. Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

Are we rejoicing so loud that the whole town or city hears us, or are we just confining our joy within the church building, showing no joy in the Lord to the world?

When I read today's verses, that's what came to mind for me, when it says that, "*the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.*" And why was there such joy? Well, we need to go back a several verses to see.

† **Nehemiah 12:27-28** *Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites,*

The book of Nehemiah has to do with the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem, which as you read in the book of Nehemiah, all the people seemed to be a part of this rebuilding.

† **Nehemiah 4:6** *So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.*

But let's take this to the church now. How many lives in the church have been rebuilt by God, including our own? I know for me personally I was torn down and headed to hell with my broken lifestyle, yet Jesus saved me, cleansed me of my sins and is rebuilding me into the man He wanted me to originally be when He created me, and that is to be a man of God, a worshipper of God and a teacher of His word.

Think about all that the Lord has done in your life personally, how you too were broken and crushed by the enemy, yet Jesus came along and saved you and is rebuilding you into that man or woman of God.

So why wouldn't we rejoice just like Jerusalem did. But you say that we do, and I would agree, but when we do, do we only do it in the church, but not outside the church? Being on the worship team, how many times do we talk about old worldly songs that we all remember and played or even new worldly songs, yet talk very little about worship songs or even writing our own worship songs?

If you think about it, we are told that all worship songs are for the Lord, which they are. But you know what, when I am feeling down or sad or depressed, nothing lifts me up more than singing out loud to the Lord, because when I do, it reminds me of Who He is, and I take comfort and joy in the Lord and singing out His praises.

The world has gotten corrupt and is sad, angry and depressed. It's time for us as the church to sing so loud that the men, the women and the children rejoice, so much that the joy of the church is heard afar off just like "*the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.*"

† **Psalm 33:1-3** *Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.*