



Every “Yes” Counts



Something to Plant

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

—Matthew 4:19-20

Read: Nehemiah 11:1-36

Faithfulness in Quiet Places

At first glance, Nehemiah 11 might look like one of those chapters we tend to skim over—a long list of names that feels disconnected from our everyday lives. But don't miss this: God's Word never wastes space. If He included it, it's because He has something to say through it. And in this chapter, He says a lot.

This isn't just a list—it's a legacy. These were men and women who stepped up and stepped in when it would've been easier to stay put. They weren't the ones chasing platforms or praise. They were the ones chosen to move into a broken city, to rebuild community, and to carry responsibility. Why? Because they were willing. Because they were faithful.

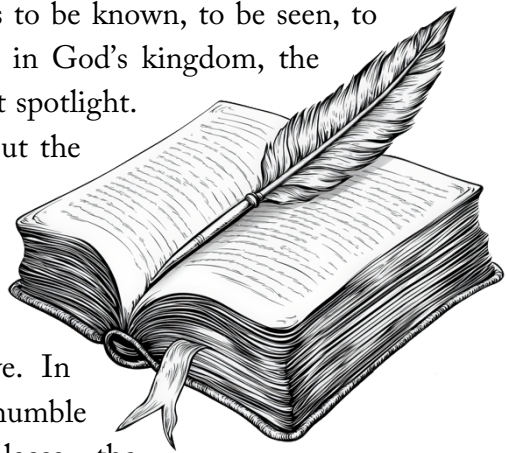
And that's just how God operates. He honors faithfulness in the quiet places. He records names not because they're celebrated by the world, but because they were obedient to Him. These names were written in Scripture,

but if you've placed your trust in Jesus Christ, your name is written in Heaven (Luke 10:20). He sees you. He knows you. He calls you by name.

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
— John 10:3

The chapter reminds us that God sees what people overlook. Every small act of obedience. Every decision to walk by faith. Every “yes, Lord,” spoken in the quiet of your heart. Those things matter.

We live in a culture that pushes us to be known, to be seen, to build a brand and leave a legacy. But in God's kingdom, the greatest legacy is built in surrender, not spotlight. The world says, “Leave your mark.” But the only marks that truly matter are the ones found in His book.



What if the deepest impact isn't found in what others see, but in what only God sees? In quiet acts of love. In whispered prayers. In steady, humble obedience. It's in those hidden places—the tucked-away corners of your day—that God watches with delight. No platform, no recognition. Just faithfulness. Just Him.

So instead of glossing over these names, let's dig a little deeper. There's something here for us. A reminder that your life doesn't have to be loud to be meaningful. It just has to be faithful.

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- JOHN 10:3

Even the Smallest Roles Matter

Each person listed in Nehemiah 11 had a role to play. They weren't all priests. They weren't all leaders. Some were gatekeepers. Others were temple servants. Everyday people with everyday responsibilities. But don't miss this: they were all necessary. Their names were recorded in Scripture—not because they were well-known, but because they were faithful.

And that's still true today. The body of Christ is made up of many parts—different people, different strengths, different callings. Not one of us is called to do it all. But each of us is called to do something. That includes you.



Have you ever struggled with feeling like your role doesn't matter? What truth from Scripture can encourage you when those thoughts come?

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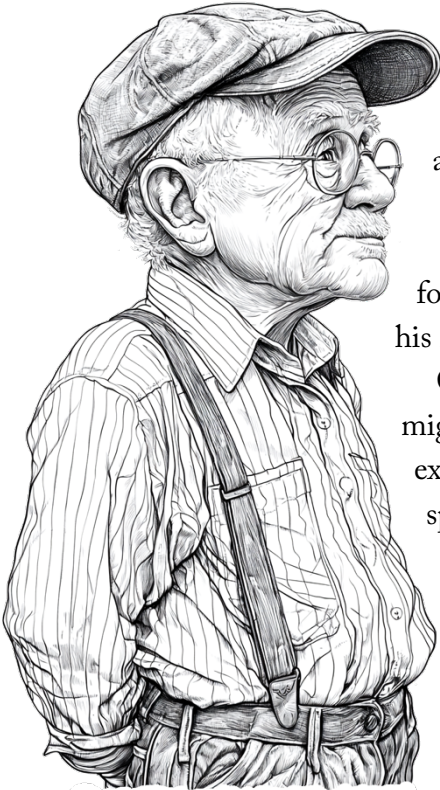
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I knew a man years ago named Gordon Grasby. He wasn't famous. He didn't stand behind a pulpit or lead worship from a stage. He was small in stature—barely five feet tall—and walked slowly with the help of a cane. You wouldn't have noticed him for his height, but you'd never forget him for his heart.

Gordon's ministry was his handshake. That might not sound like much, but when you experienced it, you knew it was something special. The first time my family stepped into his church, Gordon made his way over to us with effort and purpose. He extended his hand and said with a smile, "Welcome to Evangel Chapel. I'm Gordon Grasby." And just like that, we felt like we belonged.

There was something in his voice—something in the warmth of that simple gesture—that wrapped around you like home. He didn't need a title or a spotlight to make an impact. He just used the hands that God gave him.

Friend, that's what it means to serve in your calling—right where you are, with what you have. No fanfare. No stage. Just faithful obedience.

Don't let the enemy convince you that your role is too small or your season too quiet to matter. Your faithfulness is seen. Your work is known. And your name—just like theirs in Nehemiah 11—is remembered by the One who writes them in the Book of Life.

So, the question isn't whether your role is big enough. The question is: are you willing to be used by Him?



What are some of the small, unseen ways God has used you to serve others—whether in this season or in years past?

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Something to Ponder

You don't need a platform to be powerful in God's kingdom.

Every quiet act of obedience, every unseen "yes," every faithful step matters to Him. God sees the hidden places where you serve with love and surrender. You are known by name, chosen with purpose, and called to shine right where He's planted you.

Saying Yes to God

Now picture this: the people of Israel were scattered throughout the land, settled in homes they had built, likely enjoying the rhythm of familiar routines. But with the walls of Jerusalem now rebuilt, there came a call. A need. The city had to be repopulated, and they were looking for volunteers.

Moving into Jerusalem was not a dream relocation. It meant stepping into a place that had been devastated, a city that carried the scars of war and ruin. This was not about personal advancement or comfort. It was about obedience. About saying yes to God's purposes, even when it meant leaving behind what felt safe and predictable.

Some were chosen by lot—one out of every ten. Others stepped forward willingly. Either way, they went. And that's what made it beautiful. Whether they were selected or they volunteered, they responded with faith. The people even commended those who said yes by choice, honoring the courage it took to walk away from comfort and into calling.

These men and women were pioneers for God's kingdom—ordinary people willing to answer an extraordinary call.

We live in a world where obedience takes a back seat to comfort—a culture that tells us life is about creating ease, building platforms, and leaving our mark. But what happens when God's call leads you away from all of that? What happens when faithfulness costs more than you expected?

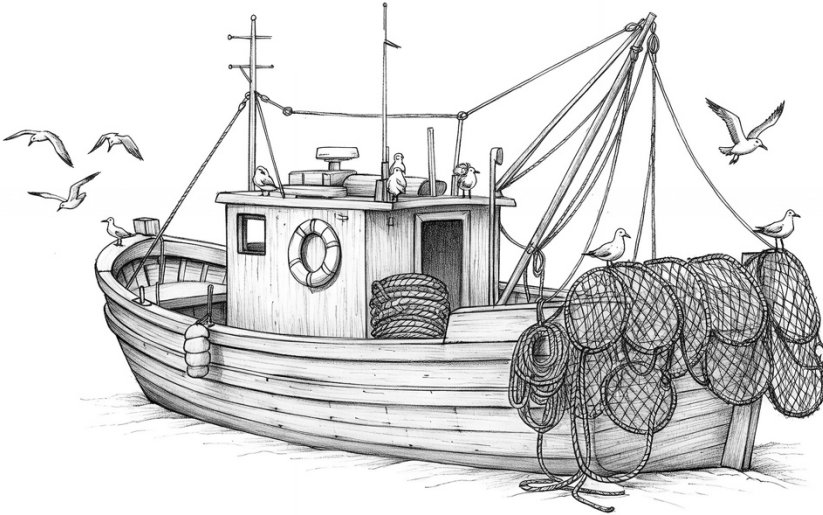
Sometimes obedience to God means going where others won't. It means saying yes to something hard, something hidden, something that doesn't make sense in the moment. That's why Romans 12:1 reminds us: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (Romans 12:1)*

To be a living sacrifice means offering your life daily—your decisions, your desires, your actions—as an act of worship. It's not a one-time decision; it's an ongoing surrender.

In the Gospels, we see this kind of surrender when Jesus called His first disciples. Matthew tells us:

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

—Matthew 4:18–20



Jesus didn't give them a five-year plan. He didn't promise comfort or clarity. He simply said, "Follow Me." And without hesitation, they dropped their nets—their tools, their trade, their source of income—and followed Him.

Those nets represented security. Identity. Livelihood. And yet, they walked away because His voice was worth more than their safety.

Sometimes God calls us to the hard things. Not because He wants us to suffer, but because He wants us to trust.

Are you willing to surrender control, trade your desires for His, and follow God's lead when the path is uncertain? Are you willing to say, *Wherever You lead me, whatever You ask—I'll follow.*

So let me ask you:

Are you willing to drop your safety net to follow Him?

Answer Key

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Have you ever struggled with feeling like your role doesn't matter? What truth from Scripture can encourage you when those thoughts come?

This answer will be different for everyone.

Suggested Scriptures to encourage you:

- **1 Corinthians 12:18–22** – Every part of the body is placed by God and has value, even those that seem weaker.
- **Colossians 3:23–24** – Whatever you do, do it for the Lord, knowing your reward comes from Him.
- **Galatians 6:9** – Don't grow weary in doing good; your work matters and will bear fruit in due time.
- **Psalms 139:13–14** – You are fearfully and wonderfully made; God created you with intention.

What are some of the small, unseen ways God has used you to serve others—whether in this season or in years past?

This answer will be different for everyone.

What do your “nets” look like—what would be difficult for you to leave behind if God called you into something new or unfamiliar?

This answer will be different for everyone.