

Guy Millar - Apostolic Priorities

Prayer must be first not least - Nehemiah 1:4-7

1. Praise
2. Purpose - praying for the kingdom of God to be outworked in our world
3. Provision - provide our daily bread
4. Penitence
5. Protection

We don't pray out of duty, we pray out of intimacy. They do not have a shelf life - God will answer them in God's own time.

Remove the rubble of compromise - Nehemiah 2:17-18

Nehemiah's reaction is to cry, mourn, weep, fast, pray. We need a softening of our heart towards this broken world.

Death

- How do we feel about those people who die every day, regardless of Covid-19?
- How has Covid-19 changed our perspective?

Artificial intelligence

Marriage

Sex

This is a time to clear away the rubble of compromise - that the church

Rebuild on an apostolic foundation - Nehemiah 3:1-2

Not Pastoral, not community action, but apostolic. Passage is a hive of activity. The stones being pulled together reminiscent of Peter describing us as living stones. The gates are used as a picture of leaders guarding the goings in and out of the church.

Walls need to be founded on the Word of God. Need confidence in what God says, the Bible becomes the final authority.

Build on a foundation of grace. Don't boast in our achievements or greatness. Leadership is by grace. Freely received and given.

Spirit empowered people. Acts 1:7. A. W. Toser "95% of church activities would go on without any comment if the Holy Spirit was removed".

The first half of the game is important. First half of Commission has been good. Second half whistle has been blown, time for people's lives to be changed.

Guy's poem

Surprise surprise I have tears in my eyes
Daily government briefing so many grieving
Covid-19 kills thousands each day
Death points its finger and whisks them away
Can I ask you a question oh please
Is anyone crying for these

Surprise surprise I have tears in my eyes
Before Covid and during there are thousands who die
Cancer strokes accidents these happen each day
Death points its finger and whisks them away
Can I ask you a question oh please
Is anyone crying for these

Surprise surprise I have tears in my eyes
Mumbai trains trundle past and thousands die
Falling falling and pushing or children at play
Death points its finger and whisks them away
Can I ask you a question oh please
Is anyone crying for these

Surprise surprise I have tears in my eyes
The unborn can't cry yet thousands will die
Unplanned and unwanted children who'll never play because
Death points its finger and whisks them away
Can I ask you a question oh please
Is anyone crying for these

And I say this if our tears were all counted stored and then listed
Compared with indifference or arguments twisted
If Covid-19 can't rouse our nation to action
Millions more will die in deaths chained reaction

Life Application Notes

Week beginning 14th June 2020

Apostles Part 6. 'Apostolic Priorities'

Guy Miller

Opening Up

When was the last time you compromised with someone about something? Did it have unexpected consequences?

Digging In

Prayer

Guy stated that our first apostolic priority should be prayer. Read Nehemiah 1:4-7 together.

- What is Nehemiah's response to the news of Jerusalem?
- Read Luke 11:1-4. In what ways do the two prayers mirror each other in structure and content? Look for the 5 "P"s that Guy mentioned: praise, purpose, provision, penitence, protection.

Remove the rubble of compromise

Guy mentioned ways in which the church can be compromised and misled - conspiracies around artificial intelligence, marriage, sex, and materialism.

- How can we avoid our Christian walk just being 'lip service' and influenced by the world's perspective on these?
- Read Nehemiah 2:17-18. How should we instead "rise up and build" the church and live our lives all out for the church?

Rebuild on an apostolic foundation

Read Nehemiah 3:1-2. The rest of the chapter describes the focussed efforts of the Jewish people to bring stone together to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Read 1 Peter 2:1-5.

- What would our church look like if we added "living stones" to our church as quickly as the Jewish people added to the wall?
- Guy listed the Word of God, grace, and being Spirit-empowered people as the apostolic foundations that our church needs to be built on. How much do you see these in our church? Where can we improve as individuals with these?

Rounding Off

Pray for our church, and Commission, that we would have our priorities right and that we can see God's kingdom come in this opportunity for the gospel.