

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 10 32-39



The Lord will indeed give all that is good and our land will yield its increase.
Psalm 85:12

Praising:

Father, blessing every seed-time,
and refreshing all the soil,
ripening the gracious harvest for
which all thy servants toil:
O thou source of every blessing
showered daily from above,
hearken to our lips confessing our
thanksgiving for thy love.

Reading:

Nehemiah 10:32-39
A practical undertaking

Although the temple tax was voluntary, Israel chooses to make it obligatory. The temple's yearly life of offerings and festivals comes at a cost. Israel's decision to pay the tax is both a recognition of that cost and a pragmatic approach to sharing it out among the people – down to the very wood they need to keep the altar fires burning. A clear

spiritual principle is also re-claimed: the law of first fruits whereby new growth in all its forms is understood as a direct blessing from God which should be worshipfully offered back to Him. In insisting that they will not neglect the house of God, what the people are really saying is that having neglected it before they will not do so again. They will see to its needs on a vigilant and ongoing basis.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord draw your people to your house of praise

- to sing of your glory in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
- to lay our gifts before you for the growth witness of your Church and its ministry
- to offer ourselves to your service in lives of care and compassion

Father: when pleasing and satisfying myself is all I want to do, rouse my heart with Christ's love that the fire of worship would warm me once again to adoration and thanksgiving. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 10 October 2016