

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 7:1-73 **(August 19, 2026)**

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. Nehemiah chose leaders like Hanani and Hananiah specifically because they were faithful and God-fearing -- what qualities do you look for in spiritual and civic leaders, and how does a leader's relationship with God shape the way they lead others?
2. The sermon draws a parallel between Jerusalem's broken walls and the lack of spiritual boundaries in a believer's life -- in what ways have you experienced God rebuilding personal boundaries in your own walk with Him, and what did that process look like?
3. Nehemiah instructed the gatekeepers not to open the gates until the sun was fully up, ensuring clear visibility -- how does this principle of careful, unhurried discernment apply to the decisions you face in your own spiritual life?
4. The people who could not prove their priestly lineage were excluded from serving in the Temple -- what does this teach us about the importance of knowing who we are in Christ and being grounded in our spiritual identity?
5. Colossians 3:23-24 calls believers to work as unto the Lord rather than for men -- how does approaching your daily work and responsibilities as an act of worship change the way you engage with them?
6. The completion of the wall in fifty-two days caused even Israel's enemies to recognize that God was behind the work -- when have you witnessed God accomplish something through a community of believers that could not be explained apart from His involvement?
7. The sermon notes that all of the returning exiles were born in Babylon and had never personally lived in the land of their ancestors -- how does this speak to the challenge of claiming a spiritual inheritance you have been taught about but have not yet fully experienced?
8. Nehemiah 7 records the generous freewill offerings of the leaders and people for the work of God -- what does the willingness or reluctance of God's people to give sacrificially reveal about the condition of their hearts toward Him?
9. The seventh month in Israel's calendar was filled with sacred feasts and the Day of Atonement -- how does understanding the Old Testament system of atonement deepen your appreciation for the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ?
10. The sermon closes by contrasting the Temple-centered religious relationship Israel had with God in Nehemiah's day with the personal, covenant relationship made available through Christ -- how does recognizing this shift challenge or enrich the way you pursue your own relationship with God?