

Keepers of the Gospel
Reflections on Nehemiah
Nehemiah 2.9-20

Nehemiah finally makes it to Jerusalem! After stealthily scouting out the conditions of its walls, he rallies the people to get to work. We are also introduced to a few of those who will become thorns in his side, but we'll deal with those guys later. This morning, take careful notice of how the initial work on the walls gets going. Toward that end, these questions are designed to stir up some thoughts for you to bring to your Life Group.

Pastor Eric

Observation & Understanding

What stands out to you about Nehemiah's situation when he arrives in Jerusalem after such a long journey from Susa? How would you describe the condition of Jerusalem and its people at this point in the story?

Why do you think the opposition (like Sanballat and Tobiah) was so disturbed by Nehemiah's mission?

Nehemiah in Action

Nehemiah had official authority and military support. Why do you think he still chose to involve all the people instead of doing the work himself, or with a select few, or by outsourcing it?

Why is timing important in a mission like rebuilding the wall? What risks came with delay? What are some modern examples where "all hands on deck" is necessary for the success of the gospel?

Unity & Community

The people "strengthened their hands for the good work." What does that kind of shared commitment look like in our church today? How is it that unity is a "make-it-or-break-it" issue for God's work? What are some subtle ways disunity can show up in a church?

According to Ephesians 4, we bear a responsibility for keeping Christian unity. What's the difference between *creating* unity and *keeping* (*maintaining*) unity? Why does Paul emphasize keeping unity?

Gospel Focus

Ephesian 4 also says that we share a oneness around several things. What are those various things that we are one about? Why does Paul list those things as opposed to others? What does it mean for our church to be "on the same page" about what matters most?

How can, or should, the gospel practically unify people who are otherwise very different?

Personal Reflection & Application

Where have you personally seen unity lead to success, or disunity lead to failure?

For solo reflection: Are there any areas where you might be unintentionally contributing to disunity?

What is one practical step you can take this week to "strengthen your hands for the good work" of the gospel?