

Nehemiah 3-4

“Nehemiah: Leadership in the Rubble”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO **Nehemiah 3-4**...

LET'S PRAY -

INTRO -

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: **“THE DRIVE TO KEEP GOING”**

IF YOU REMEMBER WITH ME WE OPENED UP THESE SERIES AND CALLED IT “LEADERSHIP IN THE RUBBLE”

AS I WAS READING THIS I WAS REMINDED OF A VERSE:

- In **Zechariah 4:10 NLT**
 - Don't despise the day of small beginnings in your life...
 - God also promises In Philippians 1:6 that Whatever good work he starts he is faithful to finish

IDEA 1 - Extreme Home Makeover: Jerusalem Edition (Chapter 3)

(READ V 1-5 NKJV)

IN THIS CHAPTER THE WORD ‘NEXT TO’ 16 TIMES

- This person built next to this person
 - There are 38 people named in this chapter and 42 groups
 - And Nehemiah was not even on this list
 - It shows that:
 - 1. As a leader Nehemiah was less concerned with taking credit as he was being open and willing to be used by the Lord
 - 2. There had to be unity among all the builders for this to work
 - 3. Many hands makes light work

“GREAT ANOTHER CHAPTER WITH LOTS OF FUNNY NAMES”

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- But understand that if your name was in here you'd pay attention.
 - Notice who started the building project
 - It's a pastor's life as a spiritual leader that should lead by example
 - Contrast that with Verse 5 where the Tekoite Nobles
 - As a Christian you should lead by example...
 - If you call yourself a servant of the Lord then don't act entitled as if you are above serving the Lord this way.

TAKE A LOOK AT VERSE 8

- Notice the kind of people that Nehemiah recruited to build the wall
 - There were no master carpenters or construction professions listed in this chapter
 - Goldsmith, Perfumers and priests were the ones building the wall, not exactly what you'd think a construction crew looked like
 - WHO DID THE WORK:
 - Goldsmiths (Verse 8)
 - Manufacturers of Perfume (Verse 8)
 - Priests (Verse 1)
 - Merchants (Verse 32)
 - Daughters (Verse 12)
 - led by a wine taster...
 - 1 Cor 1:27 NKJV

THE WORD REPAIR IS USED 35 TIMES IN THIS CHAPTER

- The idea in the Hebrew is to strengthen, encourage, and support
 - And we are all called to build the House of God

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5 TIMES - “MADE REPAIRS IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE”

- People were stationed on the wall where they had a vested interest
 - This gave them a spirit of Excellence because they knew their work directly impacted their family.

IT REMINDS US THAT THE CHRISTIAN WALK BEGINS AT HOME

- Husbands - **Ephesians 5:25-26 NKJV**
 - Literally nurture your wife's spiritual growth
 - Know this that your wife will either flourish or falter under your leadership
- Our Children - **Ephesians 6:4 NKJV**

LOOK ON DOWN AT VERSE 14

- The Refuse Gate was not an awesome assignment. but very necessary
 - Doesn't seem like Malchijah had much help
 - One dirty diaper left in the house effects the peacefulness of the whole house
 - Things we would never allow in our homes we allow in our spiritual life
 - But in order to experience peace you must first clean up the refuse gate and put in the work.

THE SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY IS THAT

- 1. God's work should be done in an organized fashion.
- 2. One person, no matter how gifted, can do all of the work themselves.
- 3. You have a responsibility to the spiritual condition of your home

ALL THE WAY DOWN TO VERSE 32

- This whole project started and ended at the Sheep gate
 - If Jesus says that He is the Gate for the sheep and this represents Jesus then we should know that any work in our lives has to both start and finish with Jesus

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IDEA 2 - When Enthusiasm Starts to Fade (4:1-10)

(READ CHAPTER 4 V. 1-6 NLT)

CHAPTER 4 BEGINS WITH “BUT IT SO HAPPENED...”

- Any time you read of a big victory and the next chapter starts like this you know it's never good!
 - Sanballot's Name literally means a Thorny bush

HE MOCKED EVERYTHING THAT NEHEMIAH DID

- Look at how ridiculous the statement that Tobiah makes...
 - It's an exaggerated insult and it doesn't even make sense.
 - Mockery is a tool used to discourage the work of God and often times it works
 - But notice what Nehemiah's response was...

INSTEAD OF ENGAGING HE STAYED FOCUSED ON THE MISSION

- He didn't have to defend himself and argue, he let the work he completed make his argument for him
 - When you feel attacked for serving the Lord, just keep pressing on and allow your fruit to speak on your behalf.
 - Matthew 7:16 ESV

MOCKING IS ONE OF THE ENEMIES GREATEST WEAPONS...

- You may say, ‘Why does it matter, sticks and stones may break my bones...?’
 - [Survey]
 - More people are afraid of public speaking than dying, why is that???
 - Because public speaking is so heavily attached with the fear of rejection

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LET'S READ VERSE 6

- The people had a mind to work, not to gossip, not a mind to propagate themselves, but to unify in a common mission.
 - The NLT says “The people worked with enthusiasm”
 - The idea was that they were motivated and set their mind and heart to accomplishing this task.

(READ CHAPTER 4 V. 7-10 NLT)

ALL IT TOOK WAS 4 VERSES

- 4 verses for motivation and drive to die and in between those 4 verses was opposition

THE WALL WAS NOW HALF WAY DONE

- I wonder how all of the people looked at it, If it was ‘half way built’ or ‘halfway destroyed’
 - The halfway point is a very dangerous spot to stay,

I WANT YOU TO KEY IN ON THIS IDEA

- Where did they pick up that kind of language?
 - Look at verse 2
 - They started to subconsciously believe the lie that the enemy was telling them
 - When they started to believe the lie along with being physically tired, perfectly complemented one another to flatten morale

WE ARE USUALLY CAPTIVES TO THE LIES THAT WE TELL OURSELVES

- This is why Jesus said you will know the truth and the truth will set you free

A VERY PRACTICAL WORD OF WISDOM

- If you are prone to discouragement, you shouldn't run the risk of spending a lot of time with people who traffic discouraging information

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- Discouragement is nothing more than a barrier Satan brings between great people and great achievements
 - discouragement is very deflating so you can only ignore it as much as you can ignore a flat tire on the road.

HERE IS MY ENCOURAGEMENT

- Don't allow the disease of discouragement to run its course. Otherwise, you'll never know what great things could have been accomplished.

IDEA 3 - Offensive Faith (4:11-23)

(READ CHAPTER 4 V. 11-14 NLT)

NEHEMIAH REDIRECTS THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE ENEMY AND BACK ON THE LORD

- He was trying to get their eyes off of the rubbish and onto the redeemer
 - But take note that it's when the people got discouraged that the enemy planned an attack.
 - The men panicked but Nehemiah did not and told the people not to be afraid

NEHEMIAH PUT THEIR MINDS BACK IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

- He also reminded them what they were fighting for - their families

BACK IN VERSE 7 IT LIST ALL OF THE ENEMIES COMING

- Geographically this meant that Nehemiah was surrounded on all 4 sides
 - Yet Nehemiah had an “Even though I will Faith”
 - Even though we are mocked and threatened with attack we are still going to do God's work, we are still going to trust him
 - I'm reminded of Habakkuk 3:17-19 NLT

(READ CHAPTER 4 V. 15-23 NLT)

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ACTION THAT NEHEMIAH TOOK WAS FIRST WITH PRAYER THAN WITH THE PRACTICAL ADJUSTMENTS

- For every man he carried a sword in one hand and a tool in another
 - The actions Nehemiah took are the practical executions of faith
 - Prayers do not replace actions, they make our actions effective

SO NEHEMIAH GOT HIS MEN TO START BUILDING OFFENSIVELY

- There's an old adage that was made popular by many football coaches.
 - George Washington once said “The best defense is a good offense”
 - So Nehemiah made sure that the men were ready for any kind of battle.

IN **MATTHEW 16:18 NKJV** JESUS TRAVELED TO CAESAREA PHILIPPI WITH HIS DISCIPLES

- Gates are a defensive term so the church should be offensively combating the attacks of the enemy

NEHEMIAH OPERATES AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE

- There is a reason why Paul encourages us to put on the full armor of Christ
 - Spiritual warfare is real and if you are serving the lord then you are on the frontlines

CALL WORSHIP UP -

APPLICATION

PRAY