

Wednesday Night, Survey Service: Week 39
Nehemiah 7 – Esther 2, Acts 19 - 21

Nehemiah 7: Jerusalem: large and empty

Key Point:

Whenever we make a positive, spiritual change in our lives (a work), we must be serious and careful to guard what comes into our lives and what goes out because the work can be attacked.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 7:4 (NLT)

At that time the city was large and spacious, but the population was small, and none of the houses had been rebuilt.

Nehemiah 8: Reading the law

Key Point:

The word of God is convicting when we hear it with the right heart, but our response should ultimately lead to joy in faith that He has saved us.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 8:8 (NLT)

They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

Nehemiah 9: A renewed covenant

Key Point:

It is vital when renewing ourselves before the Lord to clearly remember our own rebellion and His continued faithfulness.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 9:38 (NLT)

The people responded, "In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests."

Nehemiah 10: Who signed the covenant

Key Point:

As believers, we should be able to articulate what it is about our lifestyle that sets us apart from unbelievers and we should pledge ourselves to being doers of the Word.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 10:1 (NLT)

The document was ratified and sealed with the following names: The governor: Nehemiah son of Hacaliah, and also Zedekiah.

Nehemiah 11: Who lived where**Key Point:**

It isn't always glorious to move into the work of God because most of the works of God must be built up. Do not despise the day of small beginnings.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 11:1 (NLT)

The leaders of the people were living in Jerusalem, the holy city. A tenth of the people from the other towns of Judah and Benjamin were chosen by sacred lots to live there, too, while the rest stayed where they were.

Nehemiah 12: Dedicating the wall**Key Point:**

Times of dedication, renewal, praise, and worship are good for the heart. We should enter His gates with thanksgiving and enter His courts with praise.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 12:27 (NLT)

For the dedication of the new wall of Jerusalem, the Levites throughout the land were asked to come to Jerusalem to assist in the ceremonies. They were to take part in the joyous occasion with their songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres.

Nehemiah 13: Nehemiah returns to problems**Key Point:**

Just because you make a show of dedication does not mean you cannot fall into complacency and compromise, so we must be equally fervent in confronting compromise in our lives.

Key Verse - Nehemiah 13:6 (NLT)

I was not in Jerusalem at that time, for I had returned to King Artaxerxes of Babylon in the thirty-second year of his reign, though I later asked his permission to return.

Esther 1: Ahasuerus throws a party**Key Point:**

Women desire to be loved, men desire to be respected, but neither can demand it from the other, because unless it is freely given, neither love nor respect is real.

Key Verse - Esther 1:3 (NLT)

In the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. He invited all the military officers of Persia and Media as well as the princes and nobles of the provinces.

Esther 2: Esther goes to the harem**Key Point:**

Wherever you are in life, even in a foreign place resulting from tragedy, God has a plan. Sometimes, it is for some short purpose, other times for something of larger purpose – but God has a reason for allowing you to be in whatever situation you're in.

Key Verse - Esther 2:5 (NLT)

At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and was a descendant of Kish and Shimei.

Acts 19: Ephesus & Miracles, Madness & Mobs**Key Point:**

Unbelievers and those not fully committed to the Lord may use His name but only those who truly belong to Him can expect Jesus to work through them.

Key Verse - Acts 19:15 (NLT)

But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?"

Acts 20: Greece, Troas, & Miletus**Key Point:**

Even knowing the difficulties serving Jesus may bring, we should choose loyalty to Jesus over loyalty to our own biological lives, because He is worthy of that devotion.

Key Verse - Acts 20:24 (NLT)

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Acts 21: Warning & Arrest**Key Point:**

God does not promise that everything He calls us to do will be easy or come without real troubles. We must decide if we will remain on course regardless of what we can see is coming.

Key Verse - Acts 21:13 (NLT)

But he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus.