

# NEHEMIAH

TIME TO  
REBUILD

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021 | PASTOR JEFFERY PORTMANN**

## ***Nehemiah 2:2 NIV***

<sup>2</sup> so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."

## ***Nehemiah 4:6-16 NIV***

<sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. <sup>9</sup> But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

<sup>11</sup> Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

<sup>12</sup> Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. <sup>14</sup> After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

<sup>15</sup> When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

<sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What part of the message really stood out to you this week? What challenged you most?
2. Fear is a natural reaction, for many of us. Take a look at Nehemiah 2:2. When do you tend to react in fear first? What do you do to get away from that fear?
3. Nehemiah 4:10 tells us "the strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." When do you personally get overcome with challenges? How can you encourage someone in your group that might be weary or discouraged to turn to God for strength and encouragement?
4. Think of current obstacles or challenges in your life. Which of these 4 outlooks as shown in Nehemiah best describes where you are at now?
  - a. I'm at the afraid stage
  - b. I've stopped building the wall, and have hit a wall myself
  - c. I'm halfway done and determined to continue building
  - d. I want to surrender my life to Jesus