



Story Tellers

NEHEMIAH

Read

Nehemiah 4:1-9

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. ⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

Know

Author and Title

- Nehemiah is the central figure in the book, and it contains some of his own records, but he is not the author of the whole book. The author is probably the same author as Ezra

Theme

- The theme of Nehemiah is the Lord's protection of his people and the need for their faithfulness in keeping the Torah (the Mosaic law) and their faithfulness in worship

Other

- The events covered span approximately 13 years
- Two main actions: the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem, and the recommitment of the returned exiles to fulfill covenant obligations

Ask

Instead of defending himself publicly, Nehemiah (4:4-5) goes straight to God. If someone posted about you, made fun of you, or came at you in a group chat, what would you want to do first? How would choosing prayer instead actually change the situation—or you?

Even with people mocking them, the builders “had a mind to work” (Nehemiah 4:6). Why do you think people sometimes get criticized or made fun of when they try to change or follow God more seriously? What would it take for you to stay locked in like they were instead of backing off?

In verse 9, the people both prayed and set a guard. What does this teach us about trusting God while also taking action? What is one situation in your life where you need to both pray and take a wise, practical step forward?

Nehemiah shows both faith and planning. Why do people sometimes lean too far into either “just trust God” or “just figure it out myself”?

Gospel Sharing Tool

1) **Ask permission:** "Can I ask you a spiritual question?"

2) **Ask 2 questions:** "What happens when you die?" "If God asked, 'Why should I let you in?', what would you say?"

3) **Listen + Repeat back**

4) **Share Gospel in 4:** God / Us / Jesus / Response

5) **Invite:** "Where are you at with Jesus?"

6) **Follow up:** "Want to talk/read more this week?"

7) **Pray for and or with them:** "Can I pray with you?"



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Sundays
9 AM, *Netcong*
10 AM, *Randolph*
11:15 AM, *Netcong*

Wednesdays
7 PM, *Netcong*

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