

Nehemiah 6-7 –16 February 2023

“Rule Well Your Own Spirit”

Introduction

*Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to stir up the people to begin the working of rebuilding the wall

*Remember: key verse for book (Read Prov 25:28)

*It's a fruit the Holy Spirit produces within a believer to have that self-control or temperance

*The word comes from the root meaning...

*To be strong in a thing or have power over passions

*In chapters 6-7 today we see the completion of the building of the wall with its gates and doors

**I believe God intended to teach us some lessons today on how to finish coming into maturity with temperance

***So let's look at 3 ways to know that you rule well your own spirit**

1st way is to know the integrity of others & of yourself (Chap 6:1-14)

Read Chap 6:1-3

1. These are really their last-ditch efforts
2. Now they want to act like friend & talk
 - a. This is at least a distraction & at best a stoppage of work
 - b. Exp: Muslim that called me to Gettysburg
3. There's a time to recognize when you're just casting your pearls before swine & don't go
4. It's evangelistic to meet with the average sinner, but meeting with entrenched enemies is rarely ever effective

Read Vs 4

1. Often the persistence of the opposition is what causes us to needlessly respond – don't fall for it
2. This is the old, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em"
 - a. Designed to tear apart from within
 - b. Today it's called the ecumenical movement

Read Vs 5-8

1. Now they're impugning Nehemiah's personal integrity
 - a. Enemy often tries to get us to defend... ourselves
 - b. Job, Joseph (Potipher's wife), Jesus

Read Vs 9

1. The enemy's goal is just to weaken, just to get a 'crack in the wall'
 - a. They know a crack w/ leak to a breach & total destruction
 - b. As in Acts 5 pray that God gives you boldness in the face of threats

Read Vs 10-14

1. Now the enemy tries to get Nehemiah to corrupt his own integrity for fear, thus ruining his witness to the people
2. Don't let fear lead us into action or inaction
3. Don't ruin our integrity to "help God out"
4. Only people of integrity can lead others to victory

2nd way is to be concerned w/ God's reputation, not your own (Chap 6:15-7:3)

Read Chap 6:15-16

1. The results of living by faith in God and personal integrity is that God is exalted & glorified
2. Walls lay ruined 100 yrs & it just took the faithful 2 months to rebuild

Read Vs 17-19

1. Many in Israel trusted Tobiah and couldn't see what was so plain to see for Nehemiah
2. Never been explained why these enemy hate Israel – Anti-Semitism is just plain Satanic

Read Vs 1-2

1. Nehemiah proves he wasn't in it for selfish advancement
2. Have loose grip on power; come & goes as God leads

Read Vs 3

1. The commission to the new mayor is 'we've worked for this security, now keep it'

3rd way is to become grateful for other's service, not concerned for your own credit (Chap 7:4-73)

Read Chap 7:4-5

1. Numbers were low with many houses still abandoned
2. He's not counting to record his strength (ie David)
3. He's counting to thank faithful followers of God
4. Read Psm 112:6b – God never forgets

Read Vs 6-73

1. This is a copy from Ezra 2
2. We may not find these names interesting, but God does
3. They're blessed by their name, the family and their gifts they brought
4. How beautiful that in the moment of completion, the faithful few that started it all are here remembered
5. We too are the minority, but the meek shall inherit the earth...when the Lord comes back

Conclusion

So, press thru to the end and the way to do that is to rule well our own spirits

Let the Word of God dwell in us richly to be controlled by the Spirit of God

1. **Know the integrity of others & also of ourselves**
 - a. Don't compromise God's standards to cooperate with others
 - b. God can do more with a small, pure lump than a large unholy pile
2. **Be concerned w/ God's reputation, not our own**
 - a. Always promote God; not our church or ourselves – all for His glory
3. **Become grateful for other's service, don't seek to be recognized for our own work**
 - a. Remember those that have passed on their faith in God to you – and rejoice!