



NEHEMIAH: *Chapters 3 & 4*

Week 3 | Jill Snodgrass

Building and Battling for God's Kingdom

I. THERE IS ALWAYS WORK TO BE DONE FOR GOD'S KINGDOM.

Until the day Jesus comes back, the work will never end. As long as we are here and have breath in our lungs, God has a purpose for each one of us—a part so crucial that only you can fulfill.

A. Pray for a passion.

Pray and ask God to give you a passion, a heart for what would most please His.

B. Pray for your part.

When it comes to building and battling for the Kingdom of God, each one of us is needed. The body of the church can't grow and function as God intended without you.

“God has a special task for each of His children, and in the humble, faithful doing of that task, we glorify His name.”—James Montgomery Boice

C. Pray and make a plan.

Nehemiah's plan unfolds in this chapter. This task was so big he needed a plan.

If God is not calling you to lead or head something up, then be a faithful worker who helps carry out a plan laid out by someone else. Truth is, Nehemiah may have had the passion and the plan, but the wall would not have been rebuilt without the faithful workers doing their part.

II. THE WORK TO BE DONE FOR GOD'S KINGDOM REQUIRES MANY WORKERS.

In actuality, the workers are few. Jesus spoke this truth in Matthew chapter 9. He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

A. Pray for more workers.

At the time when Nehemiah was rebuilding this wall, there were about 50,000 exiled Jews who returned home and a few thousand more came with Nehemiah and Ezra. Yet, out of all of those thousands of people, only a few thousand did the actual work.

B. Place workers strategically.

Nehemiah coordinated the work so that there would be no gaps. Everyone worked closely together so that one section would be completed along with the one next to it.

He placed workers on the wall near or adjacent to their homes. Priests rebuilt the area near the temple. This not only made it convenient for the workers, but gave them more motivation to get their portion of the work done quickly and properly. It tied their own personal interest to the work. It also made their section of the wall a family affair, which recruited more people for the task.

C. Praise workers for their accomplishments.

This whole chapter lists the workers and what they accomplished. Of all the names mentioned, Nehemiah’s name is not listed. He actively helped in the rebuilding of the wall, but gives no credit to himself. He gives God all the glory.

III. THE WORK TO BE DONE FOR GOD’S KINGDOM WILL RECEIVE OPPOSITION.

Anytime the work of God is progressing, it’s not a matter of if opposition will come, but when. So we shouldn’t just expect it; we should be prepared for it.

We are not fighting flesh and blood, but the enemy who wants to steal, kill, and destroy. He will use anyone he can that will allow him to. But just as Nehemiah did, we are to keep our eyes on God, continue working on in faith, and be an example for Christ.

Most of the time it’s someone’s personal agenda that lies behind the opposition. And it’s no different in this case with Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall.

Opposition is a good test to see what we’re made of and is an opportunity for growth.

The enemy's tactics:

A. Ridicule

This is usually the first tactic, because it's easy and effective. It demoralizes and targets our hidden insecurities. It makes one feel foolish for not only trying, but even thinking they could possibly do what they've set out to accomplish.

Nehemiah didn't retaliate. Instead, he prayed (not out of personal vengeance, but for the glory of God) and went on about his work. He knew it was his job to work on the wall, and God's job to fight their battles.

B. Intimidating threats

When their first tactic wasn't working, they threatened them with violence. And this threat couldn't have come at a worse time. The Jews were well into the work and had become tired, and morale was still very low amongst the people.

The enemy knows that discouragement can be debilitating and destructive.

C. Fear

The Jews were well aware of how weak they were and how powerful their opponents were. When we feel a crippling fear, that's a good indication that we have taken our eyes off of our God and placed them on what's before us.

Nehemiah constantly reminded them of our powerful God who would triumph over the enemy. The battle was ultimately God's to fight and win, not theirs.

Suspecting the enemy would threaten violence, Nehemiah encouraged the people to pray and pack a weapon continually to guard against attacks and calm their fears.

He stationed guards on duty at all times and divided the workers into shifts. He turned Jerusalem into an armed camp.

Nehemiah had so many wonderful traits as a leader and a follower of God. But the best thing he possessed was his faith. That is where it all begins. Because, without faith it is impossible to please God. And Nehemiah knew that He who had began a good work would see it to completion, in both the wall and in Himself.

WEEK 3

NEHEMIAH:

Chapters 3 & 4

THEN AS I LOOKED OVER THE SITUATION, I CALLED TOGETHER THE NOBLES AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE AND SAID TO THEM, “DON’T BE AFRAID OF THE ENEMY! REMEMBER THE LORD, WHO IS GREAT AND GLORIOUS, AND FIGHT FOR YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SONS, YOUR DAUGHTERS, YOUR WIVES, AND YOUR HOMES!”

Nehemiah 4:14 NLT



Day One

NEHEMIAH 3

Nehemiah 3:1-16



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah 3:1-16

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is the main idea?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

- Who are the key people in this passage?

- What's the importance of this passage?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach us about the importance of doing God's work?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything else the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of God's Word?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Two

NEHEMIAH 3

Nehemiah 3:17-32



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah 3:17-32

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is the main idea in these verses?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

- How did the priests, as leaders, view the manual work of rebuilding the wall?

- How did Nehemiah determine who would work where?

- Concerning God's Kingdom, is some work more important than other work? Why or why not?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- How does Nehemiah's view of manual labor compare with yours?

- What helps you accomplish a big task or job?

- What task is God giving you to do?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of God's Word?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend some time in prayer with the Lord. Reflect on how well you serve Him. Ask God to reveal anything that He wants to teach you regarding your service to Him. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Three

NEHEMIAH 4

Nehemiah 4:1-13



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah, Chapter 4:1-13

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is the main idea of this passage?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

- What was the posture of Nehemiah's heart in his prayer?

- How did ridicule affect the work on the wall?

- What's the importance of this passage?

Write down anything else you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- Why should prayer be our first response to opposition?

- How do you typically respond to opposition, concerning the work of God?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of God's Word?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend some time with the Lord in prayer. Reflect on how Nehemiah handled opposition. Ask God to reveal truths concerning any opposition you may face in life, especially when serving Him. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Four

NEHEMIAH 4

Nehemiah 4:14-23



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah, Chapter 4:14-23

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is the main idea of this passage?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

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- What can you learn from Nehemiah's example in this passage?

- What steps did Nehemiah take to keep work on the wall moving forward?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach us about how to handle opposition?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today?

- What steps can I take to continue God's work when I am ridiculed or discouraged?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything else the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of God's Word?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:
