



NEHEMIAH: *Chapters 5 & 6*

Week 4 | Candace Jerkins

Remember the Mission

God was gracious and put Nehemiah in this leadership position. Nehemiah's time on earth was not accidental.

God places people where he wants them purposefully. There was a mission to be completed, and Nehemiah was the man to lead.

This book is not just a narrative; it's a call to action because if we're saved then we all have a mission.

The reason we want to pay close attention and learn from Nehemiah is because we may not be asked to build a wall, but if we're breathing God has tasked us for a specific mission. We want to be faithful to complete the mission God has given us.

Every saved person tasked with a mission (prob more than 1!) Our missions will look different based on age, gifting, seasons of life. Whatever season God has you in right now, is the avenue for your mission.

Our mission may be to go and do something specific, serve in a specific ministry, but it may also be simply to go to war on your knees for something or someone.

Whatever your mission, there will be highs, lows. There will be opposition. You will probably want to quit at some point, but let's learn from Nehemiah and see how we too can faithfully complete the missions God gives us.

I. NEHEMIAH HAD REVERENCE FOR GOD AND THE MISSION HE WAS CALLED TO.

Reverence: a profound respect and awe directed towards God, recognizing His holiness and authority expressed through worship, obedience, and a humble attitude, honoring God in all aspects of life.

“If you can't see the sun, you will be impressed with a street light. If you've never felt thunder and lightning, you'll be impressed with fireworks. And if you turn your back on the greatness and majesty of God you'll fall in love with a world of shadows and short-lived pleasures.”—John Piper

Nehemiah's secret weapon...

A. feared God- viewed God rightly

B. focused on the mission-respect, love for God led to action.

*“When God is our deepest pleasure, we will display him as our highest treasure.”
—John Piper*

There was a problem. Nehemiah got this right, but the people did not. The people had gotten distracted from their mission. They were focused on their circumstances and as a result the work on the wall had stopped.

Chapter four ended on a note of great victory. The people of God were doing the work of God- despite all obstacles. Here in chapter 5, there is no mention of working on the wall. Instead, we see Nehemiah being a referee among God's people. The work had stopped because of this opposition within. It was distracting and discouraging.

Whether outside opposition or inside opposition, we too must remember our mission. Remembering keeps us focused no matter what we face.

What was Nehemiah's mission? Rebuild the wall

Why? broken walls symbolize the spiritual and communal disrepair of the Jewish people

Rebuilding (mission) represents a return to covenant faithfulness

*Are we distracted?

*Do we have a healthy reverence for our God/mission he's called us to?

II. NEHEMIAH REFLECTED GOD'S CHARACTER IN THE MISSION.

A. Recognized the cry of the people.

He heard the grief behind the cries, and it moved him to action.

Our God is a personal God who hears our cries. He sees and knows when we've been wronged. .

B. Rebuked those that needed it.

He thought carefully and dealt with situation calmly and logically. He didn't lose it and fly off the handle. He called a meeting, called them to stop charging interest, told them to restore the fields and repay the interest.

Reflected God's character by rebuking those that needed it as he defended those they harmed.

Our God is our great defender.

*Are we reflecting God's character in our mission?

III. NEHEMIAH REFUSED TO BE DISTRACTED FROM THE MISSION.

As we move into chapter 6 we see outside opposition again through the enemies Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem.

Schemes....

*Distraction (1-4): four polite invitations mask deadly intent

*Slander (5-9): false political charges

*Compromise with Sin (10-13): luring Nehemiah to misuse the temple

*Intimidation (17-19): relentless letters to discourage

Men were carrying out these schemes but make no mistake who was actually behind the scheming: Satan, our adversary, our enemy whose sole purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. When God is at work you can guarantee so is the enemy.

This is why we can't ignore and sit idle but must be proactive and stay focused and faithful to our mission.

*What schemes is he using on you to distract you from your mission?

Nehemiah refused to be distracted, discouraged or intimidated. He did what he knew to be right in addressing the issues. Then with the rest he asked the Lord for strength. He was impacted by the opposition, tempted by distraction and knew in his own flesh he couldn't do it alone. He brought the issues to the Lord.

When faced with opposition and distraction, we must do what Nehemiah did: handle what's been given to us to handle and ask the Lord for strength with the rest. Then we must continue on! Refuse to be distracted! Refuse to quit!

Average city walls of that time took years to build. The work was big. The opposition was tough, but the job wasn't impossible because God was behind it. It was God's mission, God's man, God's timing, God's power.

Nehemiah had a mission and he was faithful to complete it, but before we give him too much credit on his great leadership, let's remember he's a mere man who had a sin problem just like us. He points us to an even greater Leader.

*When Nehemiah heard that the people were wronged, he fought on their behalf.

*Jesus saw us in our hopeless state and fought on our behalf yesterday, today and forever.

*When Nehemiah was slandered, he didn't defend himself. He spoke the truth and trusted God.

*Jesus who was also slandered did not defend himself. He spoke the truth and trusted the plan of the Father.

*When Nehemiah was tempted by others to stop the work, he refused.

*Jesus doing the ultimate work on the cross refused to save himself.

*Nehemiah was faithful to complete the mission that God had given him.

*Jesus was faithful to complete the ultimate mission God had given him and this impacts us today and for all eternity.

Same God that created and used Nehemiah is the same God that created and wants to use you.

“You are not saved for the sole purpose of going to heaven; you are saved to finish your assignment on earth.”

WEEK 4

NEHEMIAH:

Chapters 5 & 6

THE WALL WAS COMPLETED IN FIFTY-TWO DAYS, ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF THE MONTH ELUL. WHEN ALL OUR ENEMIES HEARD THIS, ALL THE SURROUNDING NATIONS WERE INTIMIDATED AND LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE, FOR THEY REALIZED THAT THIS TASK HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY OUR GOD.

Nehemiah 6:15-16 CSB



Day One

NEHEMIAH 5

Nehemiah 5:1-13



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 5:1-13

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?

- 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 about man and how does it apply to my life today?

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

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- 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 5

Nehemiah 5:14-19



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 5:14-19

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?

- In what ways were the people heavily burdened?

- Why didn't Nehemiah participate?

- What did Nehemiah do instead?

- Why did this decision matter?

- How does our devotion (what we mentally choose to invest in) impact our actions? Give an example of how you've seen this to be true.

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Day Three

NEHEMIAH 6

Nehemiah 6:1-9



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 6:1-9

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?

-
- Who are the enemies?

- When did the enemies contact Nehemiah?

- What was the intent of their contact?

- Why is discernment an important quality to have?

- How did Nehemiah respond to the schemes of his enemies?

- Explain the importance of this response.

Write down anything else you observe from the text:

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Day Four

NEHEMIAH 6

Nehemiah 6:10-19



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 6:10-19

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?

-
- The wall was completed in record time in spite of opposition. Why?

-
-
-
- What truth does this reveal about our God?
-
-
-

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?

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

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