

THE NAKED TRUTH (Week 3)

July 27th, 2025

Review:

- Why are we talking about this subject?
 - To identify God's design for sex, marriage, and gender (**Genesis 1-2, Matthew 19:3**), and to address the tensions for believers and unbelievers—between telling the truth to followers of Jesus and showing God's love to those who have never heard the truth or who have failed.
- Last week we discussed the **Deterioration**. **Romans 1:18-32** specifies what sin is and the truth that all have sinned.

This week: **DEDICATION**. Nehemiah's Story

- The Israelites were conquered by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians, then the Persians. Artaxerxes was the Persian King.
- Nehemiah's entire story reveals God means what He says, but He is willing to forgive and help us rebuild when there is repentance.
- **Jeremiah 2:1-13**; A New start: **Nehemiah 1:1-8**.

Notice the wall is down.

- The wall represented a distinction from other people's groups, safety, and power.
- As an outer physical wall creates safety within, so God's spiritual laws create boundaries to stay where there is safety.
- Not having safety would be humiliating as a nation.
- This city of Jerusalem represented the Lord. He would be seen as less powerful than the gods of the surrounding nations.

Notice why the wall was down...the problem (**1:6**).

- **The physical wall was down because the spiritual wall was down.**
- The wall was not the primary problem. It was the result of the real problem.
- When we face trouble, we often act before coming to the Lord. We work to fix what we can see, rather than the spiritual issue.
- Nehemiah acknowledges why Israel was in this state. They had become like the nations around them.
- **Exodus 14:15-17; Deuteronomy 4:5-8.**

Notice Nehemiah prayed before he acted.

- He confessed his country's sin and his own.
- He asked God to help Israel.
- He asked God to help him do his part.

Nehemiah stepped out in faith. He was willing to give up his position, wealth, and comfort.

- It was dangerous for him to go to a country with external and internal enemies.
- **Nehemiah 2:1-5.**

Notice Nehemiah had to tell the people the wall was down. The obvious had escaped them.

- They were so used to the lack of safety and disgrace that they didn't even notice it anymore.
- They had no vision of something better.
- Nehemiah called them to notice and to work.
- Remember your purpose, who you are—every one of you.
- **Nehemiah 2:17-18.**

As soon as they began to rebuild, the enemies came, and they kept on coming.

- First, they said the Israelites were politically incorrect—they were rebelling against the human king.
- The enemies tried to join them through infiltration and deception.
- The enemies used fear; tried to divide; deceived and schemed.
- **Nehemiah 2:19-20, Nehemiah 4:1-3.**

When it gets hard and scary (the grind), Nehemiah reminds the Israelites to fight for their families, their homes, and their people.

- Some complain about the country, or others, but they don't take responsibility in their own houses.
- Not everyone was a builder, so they had to learn a new skill, but it was worth it.
- **Nehemiah 3:10, 3:28, 4:13-14, 4:19-23.**

The real turning point: Repentance and dedication to the Lord and His Word.

- Remember the reason the Lord had abandoned Jerusalem and Israel was they had rejected the Lord.
- **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-10.**

Persistent dedication leads to a changed community.

- **Nehemiah 13:4-5.**

What does dedication look like? Acknowledge God will not bless sin; rather, He will oppose it (1 Peter 5:5-6).

- Why do we choose the short cut? Why do we choose to disobey?
 - It is because we don't believe God. We don't trust Him to do things in His time that will be for our good.
- 1. I will choose not to conform to the world's way of seeing things (**Romans 12:1-2**).
- 2. **Personal Repentance:** As to the issue of sexuality, I will do what God's Word commands in my life (**2 Corinthians 7:8-11**).
 - Marriage, gender, sex before marriage, dating, as a married person, as a single person...
 - God means what He says about blessings and curses (**Deuteronomy 30:15**).
- 3. I will start in my own house but also be a part of the community of faith (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**).
 - I am a child of God, and I have brothers and sisters.
 - If I have children, I will lead.
 - If I am single, I will be faithful to the Lord. I will be Holy, and I will be a part of God's family (**1 Peter 2:11; Hebrews 3:12-13**).
- 4. If I see a brother or sister struggling, I will minister to them. I remind them who they are (**Galatians 6:1-3; Jude 22-23**)!

For Small Group Discussion:

Passages to look at: **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Romans 6:15-23.**

1. What did you hear about a dedicated life that stood out to you?
2. As you examine your world, what concerns do you have? How are those concerns impacting your prayer life, your habits, or your compassion for others?
3. Dedication includes dealing with areas that haven't been under God's authority. What areas of repentance, commitment, and action is God showing you? (*Think about personally, for your family, your friendships, your workplace, or your online activities.*)
4. What would a dedicated life, particularly in the area of sexuality, look like for you in this season of your life? What is your plan of action and your next step?
5. As we conclude the Naked Truth series, what has God shown you, and how are you responding?