

Nehemiah 3-4 | 5/6/18

- Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem and he makes preparations to rebuild | Nehemiah 2:11-20
 - **Read Nehemiah 2:11-20**
 - Nehemiah inspects the walls and gates | Nehemiah 2:11-16
 - Nehemiah makes a thorough inspection of the destruction of the walls and gates.
 - Nehemiah rallies the people to rebuild | Nehemiah 2:17-18
 - With God obviously at work both in Nehemiah and the people they respond to his request.
 - Nehemiah again makes it clear who is ultimately responsible, that it is only by God's grace and his providence that had allowed this to happen.
 - God encouraged the people and they were determined to rebuild the walls and the gates.
- Nehemiah's response to the opposition | Nehemiah 2:19-20
 - **Read Nehemiah 2:19-20**
 - Nehemiah makes it very clear to those who opposed them that God had granted them the right to Jerusalem and the ability to rebuild the walls.
 - Nehemiah was not going to back down because God was on their side.
- There was unity with the rebuilding of the walls and gates | Nehemiah 3
 - While rebuilding the walls was a great task we see that everyone pitched in
 - **Except for the nobles**
 - Nehemiah 3:5
 - Each family or group of people took up their own section of the wall to rebuild.
 - This caused the rebuilding to go quickly.
 - Christians need to show unity
 - The example of unity by the Israelites is an excellent example to Christians.
 - There at times can be a lack of full unity in the church.
 - For churches in general there are always far fewer that pitch in and help than those that simply attend.
 - But God has called all of us to His service. We all play a role in the church, in the body of Christ.
 - We could do great things for the kingdom of God and we would be a blessing to many.
- Opposition to the building of the wall | Nehemiah 4
 - The Israelites were mocked for their efforts | Nehemiah 4:1-3
 - **Read Nehemiah 4:1-3**
 - While the Israelites were diligently working to rebuild the walls, they are still under opposition from the surrounding inhabitants.
 - In the Book of Nehemiah alone there is 7 attempts to stop the work, this is not including what is recorded in Ezra chapter 4.
 - It seems that they turned to mockery to discourage the Jews from their project.
 - **There can be adversity upon the Christian even when we are doing what God has called us to do.**
 - When Christians do what God has called them to do it never means that it will be easy with no opposition.
 - Sometimes we think that well if **I'm doing the will of God then it should be easy**, so if there is opposition to what I am doing then maybe that's not what God wants from me.
 - If we are truly trying to be in the will of God there **WILL be opposition**, Satan will do what he can to prevent us from doing so.

- 2 Timothy 3:12
 - “In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
 - As we read on we will see that regardless of opposition they preserved through and obeyed God.
 - **Do you find at times there is opposition even when you are doing the will of God and being obedient? If you are doing God’s will, why is it not always easy?**
 - Nehemiah calls out to God because of the opposition | Nehemiah 4:4-5
 - **Read Nehemiah 4:4-5**
 - After being faced with mounting opposition Nehemiah calls out to God.
 - The building progresses and there is more opposition, so Nehemiah reminds them of God’s power. | Nehemiah 4:6-14
 - **Read Nehemiah 4:6-14**
 - We have more plots to attack the Jews to stop the building of the walls. And again, Nehemiah and the Jews prayed.
 - The people recognized that on their own they could not hope to build the wall amongst the opposition.
 - Nehemiah 4:10
 - “In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.”
 - **We too encounter times like this in our lives, where we know that we cannot make it through (or persevere) a difficult circumstance in life on our own.**
 - That outside intervention is needed because on our own we certainly are not capable.
 - Nehemiah reminds them of whom God is and that they should not be afraid of man.
 - Nehemiah 4:14b
 - “...Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”
 - Nehemiah makes a very wise and profound statement to the Jews to encourage them.
 - He reminds them of the power and glory of God and that they should not fear man because God is on their side.
 - Nehemiah’s perspective is an excellent example for Christians.
 - We too will encounter our life circumstances where we will fully realize that we cannot get through it on our own.
 - The solution for us when we are in these times is the same for the Israelites, that God is on our side. That He will be there for us to pull us through whatever it is we are going through.
 - This varies from providing the solution to our problem through miracles or using others as His hands and feet.
 - At other times it is simply to be there to strengthen us so that we can persevere through our difficult time.
 - Regardless of how He does it, He will always be there for us and He hears our prayers just as he did for Nehemiah.
 - **Have you personally experienced the power of God intervening in your life when you were at a time where you knew you could not get through a circumstance on your own?**

- **How would you explain how it feels to have received God's power and intervention?**
- While God will intervene, we too must do our part | Nehemiah 4:15-20
 - ***Read Nehemiah 4:15-20***
 - God was with the people of Israel and He saw to make sure that the walls were rebuilt and that they would be successful.
 - However, this did not mean that they could simply leisurely go about their business building the walls and not put forth any effort in their defense.
 - No, these people worked hard to not only build the walls but at the same time were at the ready to defend themselves and others.
 - God was with them to see them through, but they also had to do their part. It took effort and they had to be diligent.
 - Christians must do our part.
 - While God will always be there for us in our difficult times this does not mean that we just sit back and wait for Him to do all the heavy lifting.
 - We must do our part that God has called us to do. This may require putting forth a significant amount of effort and determination.
 - What our part is depends on the situation and God will reveal what that is if we ask Him.
 - **How would you describe how the Christian works in cooperation with the God as He helps us through our circumstances?**