



Lessons From The Wall

**Lessons on
Leadership and
Building**

Chatequa Pinkston



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Overview

The first six chapters of the book of Nehemiah tell the story of a man who leads the rebuilding of a wall. It begins with Nehemiah hearing about the broken wall and, through prayer, having a burden to fix it. Next, because of his position as a cupbearer to the king, he was able to obtain all the support required to rebuild. After arriving in Jerusalem quietly, a team of people joins forces to help with the project. Meanwhile, enemies arise who constantly sent distractions and false accusations meant to destroy Nehemiah's work. Nehemiah remained focused and completed the wall in 52 days.

Nehemiah's name means consolation and repentance before the Lord. During the rebuilding process, he brought comfort and repentance to the people's lives.

The purpose of this study is to help readers build ministry, business, home, and relationships. Almost everyone has at least one area of their life that they are working on rebuilding. Sometimes we receive assignments from the Lord that require a building process. The concepts, scriptures, and questions in each part will give lessons that can be used in every part of your life.

Chatequa Pinkston



Chatequa Pinkston has a powerful testimony of God's love, grace, and power. She is an example of God's power being made perfect in weakness. From the beginning, life has been a challenge since she was born with cerebral palsy, which affects her motor skills. She has her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computer Science from the University of South Florida despite negative diagnoses at an early age. Her testimony allows her to walk as a sign and a wonder in the earth.

She is currently an ordained prophetess under According to His Word Worship Center, and serves as the administrator of the Deborah Network International.

Chatequa started Hidden Treasures Ministries. The ministry's vision is that people will find the purpose and plan of God for their lives that have been hidden from the beginning of time. Many of its outreaches are geared towards individuals with disabilities.

Chatequa is the author of several books: *Revival of the Love of God*, *Arise and Walk*, *Fresh Bread of Heaven*, *CP Redefined*, and more. She also wrote "Walking as Signs and Wonders in the Earth," which tells her testimony and teaches how miracles point the way to Jesus. Another book is "The Heart of God," which encourages readers to experience the many ways that God communicates with His creation. God desires a relationship with man above all else.

She travels and ministers, sharing her testimony and the Word of God in churches, conferences, and schools.

Visit her website at www.hidden-treasures-ministries.com.

Isaiah 8:18 Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

Part 1

Preparing for the Work

Matthew 6:33 ESV

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

The Burden

Nehemiah 1

These are the words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

It so happened that in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year, I was in Susa the citadel. **2** Hanani, who was one of my relatives, along with some of the men from Judah, came to me, and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped and had survived the exile, and about Jerusalem. **3** They said to me, “The remnant that remains from the exile there in the province are experiencing considerable adversity and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem lies breached, and its gates have been burned down!”

Concept

Nehemiah received news that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down. This became his burden or assignment. He was moved to do something about it. We must have a burden or cause to motivate us. A burden is an invoice, task, or service. Burdens turn into assignments, and our assignments must be clear.

Scriptures

Luke 19:41-42 - Jesus had a burden for Jerusalem

Matthew 9:36-38 – Jesus moved with compassion

Matthew 15:24 – sent to the lost sheep of Israel

1 Samuel 17:29 – David had a cause in facing Goliath (KJV)

Question

What news have you received that grabbed your heart or made you want to do something about it?

Prayer and Intercession

Nehemiah 1

4 When I heard these things I sat down abruptly, crying and mourning for several days. I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5 Then I said, “Please, O Lord God of heaven, great and awesome God, who keeps his loving covenant with those who love him and obey his commandments,

Concept

After hearing the news of the broken wall, Nehemiah immediately prayed. The burden should send us into prayer and intercession. This should be our first step.

Scriptures

Galatians 1:15-17 – Paul prayed after his calling to preach

Mark 1:35-38 – Jesus rose early to pray. After prayer, he had clarity about his assignment

Luke 6:12-15 – Jesus prayed all night before choosing his disciples

Mark 6:46 – Jesus prayed before walking on the water and healing people on the other side

1 Timothy 2:1 – intercession for leaders

Ephesians 6:18 – Pray with all types of prayer in the spirit

Jeremiah 27:18 - Prophets make intercession

Ezekiel 22:30 – God looks for someone to stand in the gap

Questions

What would you like for God to do about the burden you have received?

Pray day and night continually, confession of sin

Nehemiah 1

6 may your ear be attentive and your eyes be open to hear the prayer of your servant that I am praying to you today throughout both day and night on behalf of your servants the Israelites. I am confessing the sins of the Israelites that we have committed against you—both I myself and my family have sinned. **7** We have behaved corruptly against you, not obeying the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments that you commanded your servant Moses.

Concept

Nehemiah prayed day and night. We should be people of constant prayer. Anything that we do for the Lord should be bathed and soaked in prayer. This is the place where ask God to put things in order concerning what He has given us. It is also where we will receive instruction and direction from God. Confession of our sins and the sins of others is part of intercession.

Scriptures

Luke 18:7 – God gives justice to those who come to Him day and night, will He find faith

1 Timothy 5:5 – widows pray night and day

Luke 2:36-37 – Anna, the prophetess and widow at the temple

2 Timothy 1:3 – Paul prayed for Timothy, day and night

Isaiah 62:6-7 – Watchmen Give God no rest until He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth

Confession

1 John 1:9 – if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us

Psalms 51:1-3 – wash me from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin

Proverbs 28:13- the person who confesses and forsakes sin will prosper

Psalms 32:5 – acknowledged sin before God

Daniel 9:20 – confessing for himself and his people

Question

What relationships are you bel

Remind God Of His Promises As You Pray

Nehemiah 1

8 Please recall the word you commanded your servant Moses: 'If you act unfaithfully, I will scatter you among the nations. **9** But if you repent and obey my commandments and do them, then even if your dispersed people are in the most remote location, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen for my name to reside.' **10** They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your mighty strength and by your powerful hand. **11** Please, Lord, listen attentively to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who take pleasure in showing respect to your name. Grant your servant success today and show compassion to me in the presence of this man."

Concept

As Nehemiah prayed, he reminded God of His word to Moses. When we pray, we can remind God of His promises to us. Quoting the scripture in prayer is powerful because we know that we are praying His will.

Scriptures

Psalms 119:49 – remember your word to your servant

Isaiah 43:6 – God said to put Him in remembrance

1 John 5:14 – if we ask anything according to His will He hears

Question

What **Scriptures** apply to the assignment that God has given you?

The Positioning of God

Nehemiah 1

11 Now I was the cupbearer for the king.

Concept

Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer, which meant that he tasted everything before the king did. The cupbearer was very close to the king. Nehemiah's position prepared him to receive what he needed to fulfill the assignment. God will position us to do His work

Scriptures

Genesis 45:5 - Joseph saved his family during the famine as the second command to Pharaoh

Esther 4:14 - Esther saved her people as queen

Questions

What positions has God given you to help bring change?

Ready to Explain Your Vision

Nehemiah 2

Then in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought to me, I took the wine and gave it to the king. Previously I had not been depressed in the king's presence. **2** So the king said to me, "Why do you appear to be depressed when you aren't sick? What can this be other than sadness of heart?" This made me very fearful.

3 I replied to the king, "O king, live forever! Why would I not appear dejected when the city with the graves of my ancestors lies desolate and its gates destroyed by fire?" **4** The king responded, "What is it you are seeking?" Then I quickly prayed to the God of heaven

Concept

The king knew Nehemiah very well and recognized that Nehemiah was burdened. Nehemiah explained his problem and the king was quickly ready to assist. We should be prepared to explain the assignment given to people who can help us.

Scriptures

Habakkuk 2:2 – Write the vision so that others can run with it

1 Peter 3:15 – Always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you

Question

Write your vision in a short paragraph.

Favor and Provision

Favor

Nehemiah 2

5 and said to the king, “If the king is so inclined and if your servant has found favor in your sight, dispatch me to Judah, to the city with the graves of my ancestors, so that I can rebuild it.” **6** Then the king, with his consort sitting beside him, replied, “How long would your trip take, and when would you return?” Since the king was pleased to send me, I gave him a time. **7** I said to the king, “If the king is so inclined, let him give me letters for the governors of Trans-Euphrates that will enable me to travel safely until I reach Judah,

Concept

After Nehemiah explained his assignment, the king granted him favor and permitted him to leave for Jerusalem. The king also gave Nehemiah letters so that he could travel freely. We are to grow in favor of God and man. True favor from God will open doors that money cannot buy.

Scriptures

Genesis 39:4, 21 – Joseph had favor with Potipher and while in prison

Exodus 33:12-13 – Moses found favor with God

1 Samuel 2:26 – Samuel grew in favor

Daniel 1:9 – Daniel had favor with the chief of eunuchs

Luke 2:52 – Jesus grew in favor with God and man

Question

What do you need to fulfill your God-given assignment that money cannot buy?

Provision for the work

Good Hand of God

Nehemiah 2

8 and a letter for Asaph the keeper of the king's nature preserve, so that he will give me timber for beams for the gates of the fortress adjacent to the temple and for the city wall and for the house to which I go." So the king granted me these requests, for the good hand of my God was on me. 9 Then I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, and I presented to them the letters from the king. The king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

Concept

Nehemiah needed natural timber to complete the work. The king gave him letters for timber for building the wall. Nehemiah was also sent with officers and horsemen. God will make full provision for the work He has given us, including finances, items, and people.

Scriptures

2 Corinthians 9:8-11 – all sufficiency for every good work

Philippians 4:9 – God will supply all of our needs according to His riches

Hand of God -- see v.18

Question

Make a list of what you need to complete the task. Believe God to meet every need.

Understanding Warfare

The Enemies

Nehemiah 2

10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard all this, they were very displeased that someone had come to seek benefit for the Israelites.

Concept

Understanding the enemy is a matter of understanding his mission. Understand your enemies and the weapons of your warfare

Scriptures

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Ephesians 6:10-18 – the armor of God

1 Thessalonians 5:8 – put on the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of faith and love

Question

What is the biggest tactic the enemy uses to distract or discourage you?

Move Quietly

Nehemiah 2

11 So I came to Jerusalem. When I had been there for three days, **12** I got up during the night, along with a few men who were with me. But I did not tell anyone what my God was putting on my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no animals with me, except for the one I was riding. **13** I proceeded through the Valley Gate by night, in the direction of the Well of the Dragons and the Dung Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem that had been breached and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. **14** I passed on to the Gate of the Well and the King's Pool, where there was not enough room for my animal to pass with me. **15** I continued up the valley during the night, inspecting the wall. Then I turned back and came to the Valley Gate, and so returned/. **16** The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had been doing, for up to this point I had not told any of the Jews or the priests or the nobles or the officials or the rest of the workers.

Concept

Nehemiah entered the city quietly. No one knew what he was doing. He did not reveal his purpose until the right time. There is timing for everything. Also, when you are doing anything remember to evaluate your work before starting.

After receiving clear direction from the Lord, there is time for council. Accountability is important. God will reveal the right people and the right timing to share your vision. These will be people who can support and encourage you.

Scriptures

Luke 14:28-32 Count the cost before starting

Galatians 1:16-19 Paul did not immediately confer with anyone when he was called

Proverbs 20:18 Plans are established through council; by wise guidance wage war

Proverbs 11:14 In the abundance of counselors there is safety

Proverbs 24:6 By wise guidance wage war, in the abundance of counselors there is a victory

Question

What has God revealed to you that you are pondering in your heart?

Good Hand, Good Project

Nehemiah 2

17 Then I said to them, “You see the problem that we have—Jerusalem is desolate and its gates are burned. Come on! Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that this reproach will not continue.” 18 Then I related to them how the good hand of my God was on me and what the king had said to me. Then they replied, “Let’s begin rebuilding right away!” So they readied themselves for this good project.

Concept

Nehemiah and the people who worked with him recognized the value of God's work. First, God’s good hand was on them, giving them favor, wisdom, discernment, and strength to complete the work in 52 days. In the Bible, the hand also represents power and direction. Secondly, rebuilding the wall was seen as a good job. Anything that we see as good and valuable will be protected.

Scriptures

Ezra 7:9-10 – the good hand of God was upon Ezra and he taught the people

Ezra 8:22 – the hand of God is upon those who seek Him

Nehemiah 2:8 – see below

Question

What are the signs that the good hand of God is upon your life?

False Accusation

Nehemiah 2

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard all this, they derided us and expressed contempt toward us. They said, “What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”

Concept

Nehemiah’s enemies accused him of rebelling against the king. The King James Version says that they laughed and despised Nehemiah. Despise means to think against or disesteem. He had to be strong and convinced in the work that God had given him. False accusations could make you doubt what God has called you to do if you entertain it. They may come in the form of questions that come from people or your mind. This is when you must cast down every imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

Scriptures

Psalms 80:6 – enemies laugh at us

Mark 5:40 – laughed at Jesus when raising a girl from the dead

1 Timothy 4:12 – let no one despise your youth

Titus 2:15 – let no man despise

Question

What false accusations from others and in your mind must you cast down?

Know Your Authority

Nehemiah 2

20 I responded to them by saying, “The God of heaven will prosper us. We his servants will start the rebuilding. But you have no just or ancient right in Jerusalem.”

Concept

When Nehemiah’s enemies attempted to devalue the work, he declared his rights to Jerusalem. Knowing your kingdom rights combats the enemy. He has no right to touch what God has given you. Protect what the Lord has given you because it is valuable.

Scriptures

Ezra 4:1-3 – enemies could not help in the rebuilding of the temple

Acts 8:31 – Simon, the sorcerer, could not partake in the power of God because his heart was not pure

Question

What valuable work has given you that the enemy cannot touch?

Part 2

Coming Together for the Work

Ephesians 4:16 ESV

16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Consecrated for the Work

Nehemiah 3:1 ESV

1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel.

Concept

The priests consecrated the work that they were doing to the Lord. The word consecrated means to be sanctified which is to make or pronounce clean and set apart. We should set our lives and the work we do as holy and set apart to the Lord.

Scriptures

2 Chronicles 29:5 – Hezekiah purifying the temple

2 Timothy 2:21 – be a vessel for honorable use

Romans 12:1-2 – living sacrifice, holy and acceptable

Titus 3:8 – devoted to good works

Question

What do you need to consecrate to the Lord?

Coming Together for the Work

Nehemiah 3:2-4

2 The men of Jericho built adjacent to it, and Zaccur son of Imri built adjacent to them.

3 The sons of Hassenaah rebuilt the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 4 Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakoz, worked on the section adjacent to them. Meshullam son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel worked on the section next to them. And Zadok son of Baana worked on the section adjacent to them.

Read the entire chapter

Concept

Nehemiah 3 lists the builders and their positions as they built the wall. Everyone had a position and a specific job on the wall. We are a body working together with each joint supplying

Scriptures

Ephesians 4:16 – Every part of the body should contribute so that we can be built up in love.

1 Corinthians 12:12 – We are the body of Christ and each member is important

Question

What specific part are you to play in the assignment?

Part 3

Understanding Opposition

1 Corinthians 16:9 ESV

9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Despising The Work

Nehemiah 4

Now when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall he became angry and was quite upset. He derided the Jews, **2** and in the presence of his colleagues and the army of Samaria he said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they be left to themselves? Will they again offer sacrifice? Will they finish this in a day? Can they bring these burnt stones to life again from piles of dust?”

Concept

Sanballat tried to devalue and laugh at the building of the wall. The enemy wants to discourage us so that we will stop the work. We must remain focused and not let the words of others deter us. Remember that we are not wrestling with people but with spiritual enemies who want to destroy God’s work.

Scriptures

1 Samuel 17:8 - Goliath devalued Israel

1 Samuel 17:28 - David’s brother devalued him, but he stood his ground and defeated Goliath

1 Timothy 4:12 – Timothy is instructed to let no man look down on his young age

Matthew 18:10 - Let no one despise your youth

Question

How has the enemy tried to despise your assignment and how can you stand against it?

Devalue the Good Work of God

Nehemiah 4

3 Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was close by, said, “If even a fox were to climb up on what they are building, it would break down their wall of stones!”

Concept

Tobiah followed Sanbaallat’s taunts with an even-if phrase. He wanted Nehemiah to doubt the quality and usefulness of the work God had given. The enemy wants us to question who God has called us to be, what God has told us, and the power of the assignment to change lives. He will bring “if you are...” questions to our minds. We must be quick to bring every thought into the will of God by meditating on the Word of God.

Scriptures

Matthew 4:3-6 – The devil tempted Jesus by saying “if you be...”

Genesis 3:1 - The serpent caused Eve to doubt what God said about the tree

Question

What questions must you overcome to complete the assignment in victory?

Continue to Pray and Build During Opposition

Nehemiah 4

4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Return their reproach on their own head. Reduce them to plunder in a land of exile! **5** Do not cover their iniquity, and do not wipe out their sin from your sight, for they have bitterly offended the builders. **6** So we rebuilt the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height. The people were enthusiastic in their work.

Concept

Nehemiah responded to all the challenges and verbal assaults of his enemies by praying and continuing to work. Our first response when opposition comes should be prayer. Then we should quickly get back to work. Growth and greater enthusiasm came from the opposition.

Scriptures

Exodus 1:12 – The more Israel was oppressed, the more they grew

Psalms 105:20 – God made them stronger than their enemies

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 – We have victory, so we are to abound in the work of the Lord

Question

What work do you need to pick back up because the enemy's opposition made you lay it down?

Watch and Pray

Nehemiah 4

7 When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the people of Ashdod heard that the restoration of the walls of Jerusalem had moved ahead and that the breaches had begun to be closed, they were very angry. **8** All of them conspired together to move with armed forces against Jerusalem and to create a disturbance in it. **9** So we prayed to our God and stationed a guard to protect against them both day and night.

Concept

Nehemiah and his team continued to build the wall despite the opposition. This made their enemies angrier and conspired to apply even more opposition. Nehemiah prayed even more and put people in place to watch. We are instructed to watch and pray to prevent falling into temptation. Watch means to be awake or alert. Let us stay alert to what is happening in the spirit as we pray.

Scriptures

Matthew 26:41, Mark 13:33, Mark 14:38, Luke 21:36 – Watch and pray

1 Corinthians 16:13 – Be watchful, stand in faith

Ephesians 6:18 – Pray and watch

2 Timothy 4:5 - watch in all things, endure afflictions

1 Thessalonians 5:6 – watch and be sober

1 Peter 4:7- watch unto prayer

Question

Write a prayer for alertness against the plans of the enemy.

Weariness Is A Tactic Of The Enemy

Nehemiah 4

10 Then those in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers has failed! The debris is so great that we are unable to rebuild the wall.” **11** Our adversaries also boasted, “Before they are aware or anticipate anything, we will come in among them and kill them, and we will bring this work to a halt!”

Concept

The people of Judah became weary from the warfare and the work. The enemy was aware of their weakness and wanted to use it to bring the work to an end. We must guard ourselves against weariness because it leaves an open door for discouragement. It is important to keep ourselves and others encouraged as we do the work of the Lord.

Scriptures

Galatians 6:9 – do not be weary in well doing

2 Thessalonians 3:13 – be not weary

Isaiah 40:29-31 – God gives strength to the weary

Psalms 27:13 – David would have fainted, but he believed to see the goodness of the Lord

Question

What is causing you to be weary, and how can you keep yourself encouraged?

God Will Reveal The Plans Of The Enemy

Nehemiah 4

12 So it happened that the Jews who were living near them came and warned us repeatedly about all the schemes they were plotting against us.

Concept

Nehemiah was warned of enemies plans before they happened. We have been given the Holy Spirit who knows all things and who gives us direction and discernment. He can show us things before it happens either personally or through other people.

Scriptures

Genesis 20:3-6 – God warned Abimelech not to touch Sarai

2 Kings 6:9-12 - Elisha warned of the Assyrians' plans

Jeremiah 23:23-24 - God sees the things done in the dark

Matthew 2:12 - God told the wise men to return home a different way

Matthew 2:13 - God warned Joseph to leave Nazareth to save Jesus from Herod

Job 33:13-17 – God warns men in a dream

Question

What has God warned you about, and how did He reveal it to you?

Working and Warring Together

Fight on behalf of the people

Nehemiah 4

13 So I stationed people at the lower places behind the wall in the exposed places. I stationed the people by families, with their swords, spears, and bows. **14** When I had made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the great and awesome Lord, and fight on behalf of your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your families!”

Concept

Nehemiah placed people who were ready for battle in strategic places. He inspected his strategy to ensure the warriors were ready to defend the wall and their families and reminded them that the Lord was fighting for them. We must be strategic in spiritual warfare and remember that the battle is more than just about us. We should pray for our siblings, children, spouses, families, and friends through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures

2 Samuel 10:12 – be strong for others

Ezekiel 22:30 – God seeks someone to stand in the gap

Psalms 106:23 – Moses stood in the gap and saved Israel

James 5:16 – pray for one another that they be healed

Question

Who are you praying for?

War and Work

Nehemiah 4

15 It so happened that when our adversaries heard that we were aware of these matters, God frustrated their intentions. Then all of us returned to the wall, each to his own work. **16** From that day forward, half my men were doing the work and half were taking up spears, shields, bows, and body armor. Now the officers were behind all the people of Judah **17** who were rebuilding the wall. Those who were carrying loads did so by keeping one hand on the work and the other on their weapon. **18** The builders, to a man, had their swords strapped to their sides while they were building. But the trumpeter remained with me.

Concept

Nehemiah had a specific strategy against his enemies. He assigned some men to work, and others stood ready for war. Even the builders had their weapons strapped to their side. We should watch, pray, and work at the same time. This requires sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and praying without ceasing as we continue working on the assignment.

Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – pray without ceasing

Colossians 4:2 – be steadfast in prayer and watchful

Romans 12:11-12 – do not be lazy in work, and be constant in prayer

Question

What are some practical ways you can pray and work at the same time?

God Will Fight for Us

Nehemiah 4

19 I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “The work is demanding and extensive, and we are spread out on the wall, far removed from one another. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, gather there with us. Our God will fight for us!”

Concept

Nehemiah had the people spread out on the wall, so he instructed the people to listen for the sound of the trumpet. Whenever the trumpet would sound, the people would gather and watch God fight for them. We know that God will fight for us when our enemies come. Our battle is against spiritual forces that cannot be seen with the natural eye.

Scriptures

Exodus 14:14 – Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord

Exodus 15:3 - The Lord is a man of war

Psalms 24:8 - The Lord is mighty in battle

Deuteronomy 1:30 - The Lord goes before you, He will fight for you

Romans 8:31 - If God is for us, then who can be against us

Question

Which characteristics of God remind you that you are victorious?

Work On

Nehemiah 4

21 So we worked on, with half holding spears, from dawn till dusk. 22 At that time I instructed the people, “Let every man and his coworker spend the night in Jerusalem and let them be guards for us by night and workers by day.” **23** We did not change clothes—not I, nor my relatives, nor my workers, nor the watchmen who were with me. Each had his weapon, even when getting a drink of water.

Concept

Nehemiah was determined to continue working despite the opposition that they faced. He took action to prevent attacks, but the people never stopped working. We must have a focused mindset when completing the work God has given us, despite any opposition we may face. This is called perseverance and endurance.

Scriptures

James 1:12 – Remain steadfast while under trials

Romans 5:3-5 – Endurance produces character, which produces hope that does not lead to shame.

Romans 12:11 – Do not be lazy in business

Question

What keeps you motivated during hard times?

Part 4

A New Kind of Leadership

Mark 10:43-44 ESV

43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

Intervene on Behalf of the Oppressed

Nehemiah 5

Then there was a great outcry from the people and their wives against their fellow Jews. **2** There were those who said, “With our sons and daughters, we are many. We must obtain grain in order to eat and stay alive.” **3** There were others who said, “We are putting up our fields, our vineyards, and our houses as collateral in order to obtain grain during the famine.” **4** Then there were those who said, “We have borrowed money to pay our taxes to the king on our fields and our vineyards. **5** And now, though we share the same flesh and blood as our fellow countrymen and our children are just like their children, still we have found it necessary to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have been subjected to slavery, while we are powerless to help, since our fields and vineyards now belong to other people.” **6** I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints.

Concept

Nehemiah received complaints about the oppression of some Jews. This touched his heart and caused him to find a solution. We should be ready to find answers to others' problems. When we see a problem, we should be moved with compassion and do something about it. Whatever bothers us is probably part of our mission and purpose in life.

Scriptures

Acts 6 – When the widows complained about the food, the apostles appointed deacons to serve.

Mark 6:34 – Jesus was moved with compassion and taught the people.

Mark 8:2 – Jesus had compassion on the hungry crowd and fed them.

Question

What issue stirs you up the most and makes you want to do something about it?

Bring Change

Nehemiah 5

7 I considered these things carefully and then registered a complaint with the wealthy and the officials. I said to them, “Each one of you is seizing the collateral from your own countrymen!” Because of them I called for a great public assembly. **8** I said to them, “To the extent possible we have bought back our fellow Jews who had been sold to the Gentiles. But now you yourselves want to sell your own countrymen, so that we can then buy them back!” They were utterly silent, and could find nothing to say.

9 Then I said, “The thing that you are doing is wrong! Should you not conduct yourselves in the fear of our God in order to avoid the reproach of the Gentiles who are our enemies? **10** Even I and my relatives and my associates are lending them money and grain. But let us abandon this practice of seizing collateral! **11** This very day return to them their fields, their vineyards, their olive trees, and their houses, along with the interest that you are exacting from them on the money, the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil.”

Concept

Nehemiah decided to do something about the people who were being taken advantage of. This caused him to call the wealthy and himself to change. We are to bring justice for the needy. Sometimes this will require us to call for changes in our personal lives and society.

Scriptures

Deuteronomy 10:18 – justice for the fatherless, the widow, and give food and clothing

2 Samuel 8:15 – David exercised justice for all men.

1 Timothy 6:18 – Do good works and be ready to give.

Hebrews 10:24 – Consider one another to stir up love and good works.

Question

What good work can you do to solve a problem in the lives of people around you?

A New Day

Nehemiah 5

12 They replied, “We will return these things, and we will no longer demand anything from them. We will do just as you say.” Then I called the priests and made the wealthy and the officials swear to do what had been promised. **13** I also shook out my garment, and I said, “In this way may God shake out from his house and his property every person who does not carry out this matter. In this way may he be shaken out and emptied!” All the assembly replied, “So be it!” and they praised the Lord. Then the people did as they had promised.

Concept

Nehemiah brought a new day by making the wealthy promise to change the way they treated the poor. These changes brought joy and caused the people to praise the Lord. We are to be agents of change in the world around us by bringing hope and solutions to the people God has assigned to us. People should give glory to God when we cause change by what we do and say.

Scriptures

Matthew 5:16 – Let your light shine so people will see your good works and glorify God.

Daniel 11:32 – Those who know God will do great exploits.

Colossians 4:6 – Let your speech be seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to bring answers.

Question

What group of people has God assigned you to, and what can be done to improve their lives?

A New Form of Leadership

Nehemiah 5

14 From the day that I was appointed governor in the land of Judah, that is, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes—twelve years in all—neither I nor my relatives ate the food allotted to the governor. **15** But the former governors who preceded me had burdened the people and had taken food and wine from them, in addition to forty shekels of silver. Their associates were also domineering over the people. But I did not behave in this way, due to my fear of God.

Concept

Nehemiah was a servant leader who cared more about the people. He did not take food or silver from the people because he wanted to do what was pleasing in the sight of God. Nehemiah's way of ruling was different from that of previous rulers. We should lead in ways that reflect the character of Christ. Our leadership should consist of love, giving, humility, serving, and thinking about the needs of others before ourselves.

Scriptures

Matthew 23:11 – the greatest shall be your servant

Mark 9:35 – the first shall be last

2 Corinthians 12:14 – Paul did not burden the people when visiting them.

1 Peter 5:2-5 – Leaders care for the people of God, do not control, and lead by example. Submit yourselves to one another

Question

What characteristics of Christ can you add to your life to make you a better leader?

Give Yourself to the Work

Nehemiah 5

16 I gave myself to the work on this wall, without even purchasing a field. All my associates were gathered there for the work.

Concept

Nehemiah was fully committed to rebuilding the wall. He gave himself fully to it, probably going beyond the normal requirements. We must have a heart for the people and not serve ourselves. Everything we should do should be for the glory of God.

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 10:31 – Do all things for the glory of God

1 Peter 4:10-11 – Minister with the ability God has given you

Romans 12:6-8 - Function in the area that God has gifted you

Question

How does what you do bring glory to God?

Do Good to the People

Nehemiah 5

17 There were 150 Jews and officials who dined with me routinely, in addition to those who came to us from the nations all around us. **18** Every day one ox, six select sheep, and some birds were prepared for me, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Despite all this I did not require the food allotted to the governor, for the work was demanding on this people. **19** Please remember me for good, O my God, for all that I have done for this people.

Concept

Nehemiah met with his officials regularly to feast, which required plenty of meat and other items. Despite this, he refused to take anything from the people. Nehemiah's heart was to do good for the people and to see that their needs were met. We should have a heart to do good for people who work with us and those we serve. Our motivation should be that others benefit and have a better quality of life through what we do.

Scriptures

Acts 10:38 – Jesus did good and destroyed the works of the devil

Ephesians 6:6-9 – Servants and masters work with a good heart as unto the Lord, knowing that you will be rewarded from Him.

Colossians 4:1 – Treat your workers fairly and with justice

Luke 6:31 – Do to others what you want them to do to you

Question

What can be done to make sure that the people around you are experiencing good?

Part 5

Set Your Guards

Proverbs 4:23 ESV

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Do not Come Down

Nehemiah 6

1 When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and no breach remained in it (even though up to that time I had not positioned doors in the gates),

2 Sanballat and Geshem sent word to me saying, “Come on! Let’s set up a time to meet together at Kephirim in the plain of Ono.” Now they intended to do me harm. **3** So I sent messengers to them saying, “I am engaged in an important work, and I am unable to come down. Why should the work come to a halt when I leave it to come down to you?” **4** They contacted me four times in this way, and I responded the same way each time.

Concept

Nehemiah’s enemies wanted to meet with him, but he discerned that they wanted to harm him. He responded that he would not come down because he was doing important and good work. We must understand the value of the assignment God has given us and remain focused. We cannot allow small things to distract us from what the Lord has said. Focus and not turning back are key to completing the task.

Scriptures

Luke 9:62 - No man who puts hi/s hand to the plow and looks back is worthy of the kingdom.

Hebrews 10:38-39 – Live by faith and do not shrink back

James 1:6-8 – Have faith and do not be double-minded

Question

What tries to distract you, and how can you place more value on the assignment?

False Rumors

Nehemiah 6

5 The fifth time that Sanballat sent his assistant to me in this way, he had an open letter in his hand. **6** Written in it were the following words: “Among the nations it is rumored (and Geshem has substantiated this) that you and the Jews have intentions of revolting, and for this reason you are building the wall. Furthermore, according to these rumors you are going to become their king. **7** You have also established prophets to announce in Jerusalem on your behalf, ‘We have a king in Judah!’ Now the king is going to hear about these rumors. So come on, let’s talk about this.” **8** I sent word back to him, “We are not engaged in these activities you are describing. All of this is a figment of your imagination.”

Concept

Nehemiah’s enemies came to him with rumors and false accusations. Ultimately, he termed it imagination. We must realize that accusations come from the devil and not from God. Therefore, we must cast down imaginations and everything that comes against what God says in His Word. These things come to attempt to slow your progress down.

Scriptures

Revelation 12:10 - The accuser of the brothers is cast down

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – Cast down every imagination that comes against God’s Word

Zechariah 3:1-4 – The Lord rebukes the devil when he accuses Joshua, the high priest

Question

What rumors and accusations do you need to cast down?

Watch for fear

Nehemiah 6

9 All of them were wanting to scare us, supposing, “Their hands will grow slack from the work, and it won’t get done.” So now, strengthen my hands!

Concept

Nehemiah’s enemies wanted to scare them to make them stop the work. His response was to ask God for greater strength. We must guard ourselves against fear because it will try to weaken us and make us stop what we are doing. God’s perfect love casts down fear. The Bible is full of verses that command us not to fear, as it is a tool of the enemy to block us from what God has for us.

Scriptures

2 Timothy 1:7 – we have not been given a spirit of fear...

1 John 4:19 – There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear

Isaiah 41:10, 13 – Fear not, because God will help you

Isaiah 44:8 – Fear not, nor be afraid

Zephaniah 3:16 – Fear not, do not let your hands grow weak

Romans 8:15 – We have not been given the spirit of slavery, which leads to fear; we are sons of God

Question

What comes to try to scare you from God’s work?

Discernment

Nehemiah 6

10 Then I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel. He was confined to his home. He said, “Let’s set up a time to meet in the house of God, within the temple. Let’s close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. It will surely be at night that they will come to kill you.” **11** But I replied, “Should a man like me run away? Would someone like me flee to the temple in order to save his life? I will not go!” **12** I recognized the fact that God had not sent him, for he had spoken the prophecy against me as a hired agent of Tobiah and Sanballat.

Concept

Nehemiah was invited into the house of a homebound man. The man invited him to the temple to hide from the enemy. Nehemiah discerned that these were lies intended to trap him. We must have discernment to recognize the lies and tricks of the enemy. We can ask God to give us discernment and wisdom, and He will give it freely.

Scriptures

James 1:5 – Ask God for wisdom, and He will give it freely

1 Kings 3:9-11 – King Solomon asked for wisdom and discernment to rule

Proverbs 14:8 – The wisdom of the prudent discerns his way

Romans 12:2 – We can prove and discern the will of God by renewing our minds

Hebrews 5:14 – Strong meat belongs to the mature in Christ so that they can discern between good and evil

Question

What do you need wisdom so you can do God’s perfect will?

Fear is not the Source of your Movement

Nehemiah 6

13 He had been hired to scare me so that I would do this and thereby sin. They would thus bring reproach on me and I would be discredited. **14** Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat in light of these actions of theirs—also Noadiah the prophetess and the other prophets who have been trying to scare me!

Concept

Nehemiah's enemies tried to make him afraid, but he refused to be moved by fear. His response was to remain in prayer. We should always be motivated by faith, which is the opposite of fear. As we pray and hear the Word of God, our faith grows and overcomes fear.

Scriptures

2 Timothy 1:7 - God has not given us a spirit of fear

Isaiah 51:12 - Do not fear man who is made like grass

Luke 12:4-5 - Do not fear him who can kill the body and do nothing else

1 Peter 3:13-14 - Do not fear when you suffer for righteousness' sake

Question

What promises of God help you to overcome fear?

Miraculous Completions

Nehemiah 6

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in just fifty-two days. **16** When all our enemies heard and all the nations who were around us saw this, they were greatly disheartened. They knew that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

Concept

Nehemiah completed the wall's construction in 52 days despite the opposition. This was a miracle for which Nehemiah gave God all the glory. We will experience supernatural outcomes when we trust God and remain diligent. The Lord will bless the work of our hands and will cause us to create quality work in supernatural time.

Scriptures

Deuteronomy 28:12 – God will bless the work of our hands if we are obedient

1 Thessalonians 4:11 – Work with your hands

Luke 9:12-17 - Jesus blessed and broke bread to feed the multitude of people

Question

What are you believing for God to help you complete in a supernatural time?

People Working Behind Their Backs

Nehemiah 6

17 In those days the aristocrats of Judah repeatedly sent letters to Tobiah, and responses from Tobiah were repeatedly coming to them. **18** For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah. His son Jonathan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah. **19** They were telling me about his good deeds and then taking back to him the things I said. Tobiah, on the other hand, sent letters in order to scare me.

Concept

Nehemiah continued to deal with Tobiah after the wall was built. The rich people of Judah sent letters to Tobiah and then shared their conversations with them. This had the potential to cause confusion. We must work quickly to end confusion and strife when we notice it among the people we are working with. God wants unity and love among his people.

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 14:33 – God is not the author of confusion.

Proverbs 16:29 – A whisperer separates friends

2 Corinthians 12:20 – Stife, backbiting, and gossip should not be in the church

Question

What are potential sources of confusion, and how can they be dealt with?