

Building for Christ: The Book of Nehemiah
Bible Study
Lesson 2

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

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We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!

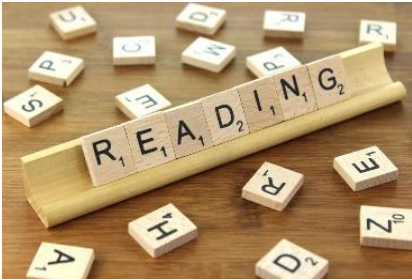


Introduction to the Lesson

The following lesson addresses two important aspects of ministry. In many ways these two aspects can make or break all work we intend to do for Christ. The first is **planning**. Nehemiah has permission from Artaxerxes along with protection to do the work. He in effect has a greenlight to begin working. However, we find that Nehemiah is extremely systematic in his work (This may have helped him to the position he held in the court of Artaxerxes) and he does not jump into rebuilding the wall. He begins by analyzing the work to be done. The next make or break term is **togetherness**. After determining the work to be done, Nehemiah addresses the people to get them engaged in the work. The amazing terms that arises over and again in this portion of Nehemiah (2:11-3:31) are “we, us, next to, and beside”. Each term carries the idea that no singular person did the work. Their success happened because they did the work together. The community of Jerusalem engaged in rebuilding the wall and setting the gates. This idea of togetherness and team aspect represents the approach God has for His church.

Reading for week 2:

Nehemiah 2:11-3:31
1 Corinthians 1: 10
Hebrews 10:24
I Corinthians 12: 12-26



I. The Importance of Planning!

Below, you see a basic sketch of the city of Jerusalem and the wall that surrounded it during Nehemiah’s time (See Roman numeral II). Notice the sections of the wall. See the many gates that would have been in disrepair. Can you imagine the challenge of rebuilding a wall that was 4,018 meters long (2.4966 mi), with an average height of 12 meters (39.37 feet) and an average thickness of 2.5 meters (8.2 feet). To complete this task in 52 days (Nehemiah 6:13) was a significant task. This task could not have been accomplished without extensive planning. But planning does not occur in an effective manner without key steps.

1. Identifying the REAL TASK. —Nehemiah 2: 11-15



What creates the first desire for Nehemiah go to fix the wall surrounding Jerusalem? (Nehemiah 2: 11)

In Chapter 1: 4, 5, and 11; Chapter 2: 4, 8, 11 and 20, Nehemiah is either calling on God or speaking about God as the one who will help him or who is leading him to do the work of rebuilding the wall. How often do we begin a work for God, but leave God out of the plan? Success in any venture for the Lord must always begin with the Lord leading and us following. Nehemiah understood that in order to find success, he needed to have clarity around what he was to do. In short, he asked God for direction about the task first and then he went to see it himself.

What does Nehemiah do before he begins the construction?

How would this analysis of the situation be helpful in repairing the wall?

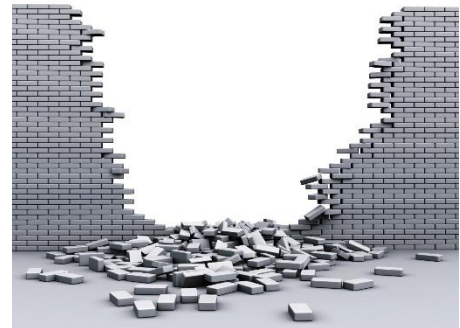
What would happen if Nehemiah simply gathered some men and began the work immediately?

What does this teach us about taking on tasks for the Lord? _____

- Has God placed a burning desire to do a task for Him? Are you seeking His direction for how to do the work, when to begin, and how to utilize resources to accomplish the task?

WAIT!!!! How did the walls get torn down in the first place?

2 Kings 24: 18-2 Kings 25: 8-12!



- What needs to be accomplished in order for the work to be completed?

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- Why do you think Nehemiah does not tell the leaders what he intended to do before he surveyed the city?

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- What do you think this teaches us about leaders? Our Pastor?
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CONSIDER THIS!

- What benefit does this approach have?
- What potential risk does this approach have?

- How does this match up with Proverbs 11: 14 which teaches that safety/ victory is won through the abundance of counsel?

2. Identify the REAL REASON—Nehemiah 2: 17

This concept is often described as defining the “why”.

Why does Nehemiah want to rebuild the wall?

Disgrace!!!

(To be in a state of dishonor or low status)

List some ways God’s name can become a disgrace

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



What can you do within your own church to ensure that God’s name and the perception of His people are not a disgrace?

- How can planning or lack thereof create a disgrace for God and His people?

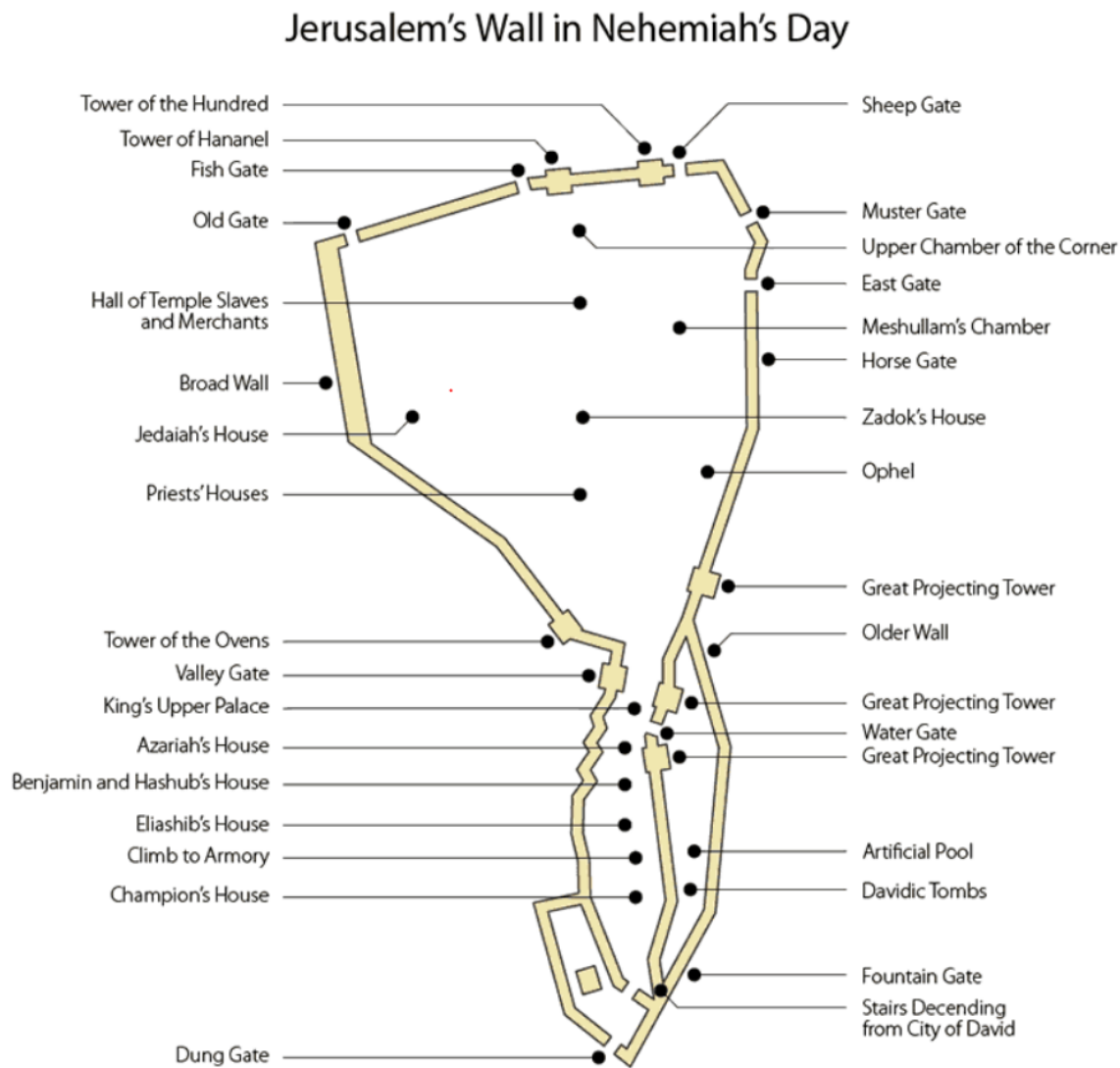
➤ **Things That Make You Go HMMMM!!!**

Why do you think the people had not made repairs to the city?

II. The Importance of Togetherness—Nehemiah 2: 20-3:31

Team Activity: Beginning with Nehemiah 3: 1-31 write in the verses which describe who repaired each section.

Directions: Assign a set of verses to each person in the group. They will use their verses to list what was done. This will be completed between weeks 2 and 3 to share with the team at the beginning of Lesson 3.



The Key to Teamwork

Nehemiah Chapter 3 is a recording of the people who worked to rebuild the wall. The listing is not the total list of names who worked on each piece of the wall. You will find groups named such as those in verse 5 which states the men of Tekoa, or verse 13 which names Hanun and residents or verse 17 which states the Levites under the direction of Binnui. In each description, it can be concluded that this work was only completed through the efforts of a large group of people united in a singular goal.

CONSIDER THIS!

- No one name is shown as more important than the other
- No one works on more than one part of the wall
- Each person/group must complete their task for the whole wall to be fixed.

What would it take for you to be engaged in work that did not include your name in the final product? What behind the scenes work does the Lord want you to participate in for His kingdom?



- ✓ Remember, with leadership comes great responsibility (Spiderman reference!)
- ✓ Romans 6: 22 states, But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

Closing Prayer: Lord, please make me a part of your work whether I am the leader or a follower. Forgive me for the times when I did not do the work you laid on my heart. I am thankful to be a part of your ministry. Amen.