



Preacher : Neil Deakin

Title : Lessons from Nehemiah – Re-building Walls

Date : 29th July 2018

Key Scripture : Book of Nehemiah

Notes

The story of the rebuilding of the physical walls of Jerusalem has parallels with our lives. That is, they represent the need to have well a well-established faith that both supports us and protects us. The 2 parallels we consider in this message are those of our need to build or rebuild personal walls and corporate walls.

Like us God's people have always tended to 'Flip Flop' between positions of devotion and strength and weakness and distraction. Throughout the Old Testament we hear how the Israelites would set themselves apart and then would weaken fall captive and take on the idols of their masters.

Let us take stock of where we are at and what we / I must do to establish strong walls of faith in our church and my life.

7 Keys to Nehemiah's success

1. Nehemiah 1:2-7 **MOVED TO REPENTANCE**
Nehemiah on hearing the condition of the walls wept and repented both on behalf of his people but significantly for himself in accepting Responsibility we are able to respond.
2. Nehemiah 2:1-10 **FIRST RESPONSE IS TO PRAY**
Nehemiah first heard the news of the state of the walls in the love of Kislev but did not leave until the month of Nisan. He spent time on his face seeking the Lord in prayer.
3. **TAKE COURAGE – TAKE AUTHORITY**
Although he was fearful when God provided opportunity Nehemiah responded to king Artaxerxes and asked for;
 - a. Permission (the Will of the King)
 - b. provision (Resources of the King)
 - c. passage (authority of the King))
4. Nehemiah 2-18 **STAND FIRM**
When Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem he is taunted by Sanballat and his cronies. Opposition and difficulty are not a sign that God is not with you or that you are not in Gods will. Whose voice are you listening too?

Personal Response

5. Nehemiah 3:28-32 **Side by Side**

(Build what is in front of you)

We read a list of people who contributed to the building of the wall and where they built. A list that many skip over and wonder why it is there as if we care who these people were. If ever you wonder who cares what you are doing know that God cares, knows and he whilst he keeps no record of the wrongs we repent of, he does record what we do in building his kingdom.

Priests, Perfumers & Goldsmiths who had specific gifts and callings first got on with building what was in front of them. Ask yourself, in your own life and the life of the church, what is there in front of you that needs building? Let's sort Our / My priorities so there is a strong place to operate in our / my full calling.

6. Nehemiah 4:3-17 **STAY FOCUSED**

If initial discouragement and obstacles did not throw you off fulfilling God's you are likely to encounter more. Nehemiah stayed focused and was wise to Sanballat's cunning and deceitful tactics. Watchmen were put in place and builders had a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other. When the enemy could see the builders were ready and equipped to defend he chose not to attack (insults were the best he could muster)

7. Nehemiah 12:27-43 **CELEBRATE**

what YOU achieved with GOD

Reading and obedience to the Word of God was re-established. 2 choirs marched in opposite directions around the walls meeting and worshipping together. Celebrate what God has accomplished with you. Worship where ever and whenever, Worship throughout the week and when we come together,

Meditate on:

Act on: