

Nehemiah, The Wall Builder

Nehemiah 1-2:17

July 5, 2015

1) Know your Leader!

- Through **prayer**- In Nehemiah 1:4-11, Nehemiah pours his heart out to God grasping that He needs God and acknowledges his sin and need.

*So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned **for many** days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.* **Nehemiah 1:4**

- Through His **words**- *We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.* **Nehemiah 1:7**
- Through knowing who **we** are in light of who **He** is - *And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, ⁶ please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You.* **Nehemiah 1:5-6**

2) Know Your Mission!

- *And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."* **Nehemiah 2:5**
- Nehemiah and the people were to rebuild the walls for protection. Upon finding out about the walls Nehemiah knew it was his mission (from the Lord) to rebuild the walls.
- We, as believers, know our mission. To love **God** and to lead others to love **Him** too. In Matthew 22:26-40 Jesus tells us how everything that we do is and should be surrounded and focused on loving God and loving others.
- However, the enemy wants nothing more than to detour us from God's love and mission!

3) Know your Enemy!

Be knowledgeable of your enemy, but not consumed and focused on him.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **Ephesians 6:12-13**

Scripture calls our enemy: a **deceiver**, a liar, a murderer, the **accuser**, the tempter and the **destroyer**, among other things.

The devil has many tools. We need to be aware of them, yet not focused and preoccupied with them:

- **Derision**- You will be mocked, laughed at and ridiculed for following God: expect it!
 - *"And they ridiculed Him"* **Mark 5:40**
 - When they were crucifying Christ they laughed and mocked Him.
 - They ridiculed our God, our leader, so we should expect the same thing and be reminded that God is in control.
- **Discouragement**
 - *Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."* **Nehemiah 4:10**
 - The enemy wants to **discourage** us from following God.
 - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- **Danger**
 - *And our adversaries said, “They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.”* **Nehemiah 4:11**
 - *And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”* **Nehemiah 4:14**
- **Discord**
 - *And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren.* **Nehemiah 5:1**
 - *A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.* **Prov 6:19**
 - Discord among brothers and sisters can cause such havoc amongst God’s Church. God’s Church greatest threat is not the **outsider** or the **unbeliever** but the ones **inside** the walls that sow discord, gossip, slander and not willing to work things out.
- **Distraction**
 - *Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),² that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm.³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”⁴ But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.* **Nehemiah 6:1-4**
 - The enemy will use anything to distract us, even “good things”.
- **Defamation**- never defame or slander a servant of God.
 - *Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.⁶ In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king.⁷ And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, “There is a king in Judah!” Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart.”* **Nehemiah 6:5-8**
 - Don’t defame or spread untruths, gossip or anything about another believer.
- **Dismay**
 - *For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.¹⁰ Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you.”¹¹ And I said, “Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!”* **Nehemiah 6:9-11**
- **Deception**
 - *Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.* **Nehemiah 6:12**
 - One who claims to have a word or message from God when it’s nothing more than a lie or seeking to get their way or mess up God’s plans.

Do you know your leader, your God? Do you know your mission? Has the enemy gotten you sidetracked on following your leader and your mission? Repent, follow God and flee from the enemy!