

Nehemiah
Week Three

SERMON TITLE:

When the enemy tries to stop a move of God.

CHAPTER THREE OBSERVATIONS

- 1.) Most everyone operated in their gifting & skill set & contributed.
- 2.) Some of the “nobles” refused to work (v. 5).

Nehemiah 3:5 (NLT) says *“Next were the people from Tekoa, though their leaders refused to work with the construction supervisors.”*

- 3.) The whole family was involved in rebuilding the city (v. 12).

Nehemiah 3:12 (ESV) says *“12 Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.”*

- 4.) Each family focused on the immediate context around their home.

FOUR THINGS WE CAN LEARN

- 1.) Everyone can bring their gifts & skillsets to the table & contribute to the work of God.
- 2.) Don't be like the “nobles” & sit around while others work for the Lord.
- 3.) Involve your whole family in the ministry the Lord is calling you to do.
- 4.) View the immediate context around you as your mission field (your mission field is where your feet are).

Main point: a move of God happens when every believer contributes to building the church of Jesus Christ. Every person that we invest in & love & disciple is our way of “restoring our city” & advancing the Kingdom. It takes all of us.

CHAPTER FOUR

Nehemiah 4:1-14 (ESV)

“1 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, ‘What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?’ 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, ‘Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!’ 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. 6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. 7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites

heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. 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." 11 And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." 12 At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." 13 So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "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."

When the enemy tries to stop a move of God:

- 1.) Pray explicitly to the Lord & trust in His goodness.
- 2.) Stay committed to the vision God gave you.
- 3.) Remember God is for you.
- 4.) Ask yourself "who would be affected if I gave up?"

This is the city we are called to restore for the glory of God. Will you play your part?

