



## Part Four: Passion That Is Acted Upon

May 28, 2023

**Big Question:** What actions have you taken toward your passion lately?

**Text:** Nehemiah 2:11–12

### Four Part Series

1. Passion That Can Be Seen and Felt
2. Passion of a Mother
3. Passion That Can Be Explained
4. Passion That Is Acted Upon

### I. The Actions of Passionate People Described

#### 1. Passionate People Personally Evaluate (Nehemiah was quite until he knew the facts firsthand)

- 11 **I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days** 12 I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem.

#### 2. Passionate People Adapt Focused Plans (Let's rebuild the wall...one mission...one job)

- 17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. **Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem**, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

#### 3. Passionate People Step Over Unwise Critics (How do you handle critics?)

- 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" 20 **I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success.** We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

#### 4. Passionate Wise People Delegate Work (They know they can't do it alone) ... Nehemiah 3:1-3

- 1 **Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate.** They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. 2 The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them. The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.



**Note:** 44 people and 3 different groups of people teamed up to help. Each one was given a part of the wall to repair.

### **5. Passionate People Fight Fear (Nehemiah 4:14–15)**

- 14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, **“Don’t be afraid of them.** Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” 15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

**Conclusion:**

## **II. How to Move From Passive to Passionate**

**Closing Text: Matthew 16:24–25**

- 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

1. You must want to be passionate
2. You must want to be a disciple (or true follower)
3. Embrace your challenges (“take up your cross)
4. Embrace the discipline of following (“follow me”)
5. Embrace the losses you must face to reach the gains you desire

**New Sermon Series:**

**Going in The Wrong Direction**

**Four Reasons We Go In The Wrong Direction**

1. We Follow Bad Examples
2. We Follow Bad Advice
3. We Follow Bad Cultural Habits
4. We Have Bad Religious Doctrinal Blockades that Stop Us From Thinking

**Read Ahead Text:** Matthew 15