



DISTRACTIONS

Nehemiah | 11.9.25

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Hey, a couple of weeks ago, I was coming in on a Wednesday morning to get my sermon prep done and some other work, and our staff told me, Hey, Charlie Sheen is trying to get a hold of you. Like, wait, what? So, yeah, he called multiple times last yesterday, evening, afternoon, and was kind of upset he couldn't get a hold of you. And there was an email in my inbox that morning just him needing to talk to me immediately. And so I remember vaguely who Charlie Sheen and his here's a picture of Charlie and because, you know, we're on a first name basis now. And so here's a picture of Charlie Sheen, in case you haven't don't remember him, but you know, he had a wild story and a lot of ups and downs, and I guess he recently put out a documentary, and so he's back on the public scene. And so when I saw that he needed to talk to me. I was like, Okay, well, sure, you know, I'll respond to just about anybody who wants to talk. As I responded to the email, and I called him thinking, you know, maybe God is doing a work in his life, and he needs to talk to a pastor, and there's a lot of work to be done in his life, and so sure, I'll make myself available. And I'm a little suspicious, because I don't get asked to talk to celebrities often or ever, but it sounded just like him, and so we talked for an hour and a half. I really poured my heart and soul out to him. Really felt the Holy Spirit using me, which makes me doubt everything I've ever done in life. I said, Look, man, like your story is not one of celebrity chaos. It is one of redemption. And this could be the moment God changes your life and you experience the grace of God. I'm thinking to myself, This guy's gonna get saved. We're gonna get to baptize him right here at adventry to the glory of God. It's gonna be a phenomenal story. And an hour and a half in there, it was to ask for money. It was just \$200 he needed, but it was for his friend who had been so hurt by the church and lived near us. And he felt like, you know, this would be a moment to redeem the church in his eyes. Now, I was suspicious all along, but he said he had heard about us from our church member and so and I confronted with them. So I'm thinking, Okay, this may be real. So I was like, Okay, let me just Can you zoom me? Can you zoom call me. And that's when he got so upset that I didn't trust him after a whole hour and a half of our friendship being so deepened in the conversation, and I quickly realized it was a scam. Not happy at all that I wasted two hours of my morning. I could have been doing really good, meaningful work, and it put me in a weird head space for the rest of the day. This made me late to a staff meeting, and I told some of our staff about what had happened, and was hoping for some compassion and empathy. But a week later, they just gave me this picture of me and Charlie Sheen, my best friend, and I just hanging out. It came from staff members who used to work here. I just want you to know that distractions, I know you got them. I got them just when you sit down to do some meaningful work, writing, reading, building, creating, that's when your mind wanders off in 1000 different directions. You think about all the items on your to do list that you haven't been thinking about for the last six months, but now they all seem really important. You got to get them done. Other times it's external, and there's well intended, well meaning people who need from you things who are making requests of you. Takes a few hours of your life. Whatever could be distractions. Distractions can be deceptive in nature and even destructive in nature. Well, that's where we are in Nehemiah chapter six. So far, we've seen Nehemiah get a burden for the building of Jerusalem while he's 900 miles away in Susa, makes a journey, comes to Jerusalem. He surveys the wall. He inspires people to join him on this mission. And as they're building the wall of Jerusalem, they face all kinds of opposition, ridicule, even armies that are forming against him to destroy the people of God, but they weathered those storms and endured it. And then last week, we saw the kinds of injustice that the people of God were having within themselves, and yet they got through that. And now in chapter six, the work is almost done, and there's a whole new set of distractions, attacks and opposition that come their way. So look with me at verse one of Nehemiah, chapter six, when Sanballat Tobiah, Geshem, the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that no gap was left in it, though, at that time, I had not installed the doors in the city. So let me just pause there. We've met these characters before, Sanballat, Geshem, Tobiah, we saw them in chapter two. We saw them in chapter four. They had come to ridicule,

attack and oppose Nehemiah. He had gone through that and resisted their attacks and kept going. Well, now they're back. The seed of the wall is almost done. So they have, all of them have come at the same time to attack Nehemiah. Just when you think the enemy's temptation is over, he comes back again, doesn't he? Just when Satan you talk, he's done. He's gonna leave me alone for a while. He keeps coming back. In fact, when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, the enemy tempted him with three specific temptations, and Jesus overcame the lies of the enemy, the temptation of the evil one by the truth of God's Word. Notice how Luke four ends the story of Jesus and his temptation. When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until a opportune time. Satan didn't pack his bags and go home permanently. He left for that moment and kept looking for moments he could come back. Kept looking for vulnerable moments where he could come back and tempt Jesus. And all throughout the Gospels, you see him doing this over and over again in different forms and using different tactics. For instance, in Matthew 16, Jesus talks about the cross and who's going to have to die and rise again. And then good old Peter gets up and said, No, no, that'll never happen, Jesus, we won't let that happen to you. What does Jesus say? Get thee behind me, Satan, not Peter, but Satan. He was coming to distract Jesus and keep him from the cross. One day, Satan will be permanently dealt with, and Jesus will deal his final blow, as we read about in the book of Revelation, He will be thrown into the lake of fire, but until then, expect him to come back. So Peter says, Be vigilant. Be aware. He knows your triggers. He knows when you're vulnerable, where you're vulnerable, He knows your wounds, so expect him to come back now. Sam Balan, all these guys come back to Nehemiah, but notice the timing of this. The wall is pretty much done. No gaps in the wall. All that's left to do is put the gates or the doors to the city gates. Say this with me, Almost there, almost there. Let's try the other half of the room, almost there. This is where Nehemiah is in this room. He's almost there at the finish line. He's almost there to the point where this new city, this new wall, can be dedicated to the glory of God. He's almost there at the finishing of the burden that God had put on his heart many, many months ago. He's almost there at the end of a project which will begin a new season for the people of God, almost there to where their disgrace is removed and their shame is gone and they can feel dignity again. Almost there to where the people of God and their hearts, as we're going to read in the next few chapters are offer to God, and they worship God, they repent others, and he is almost there. And that's when the enemy intensifies his attacks and his distractions. I think some of you are in your own almost there moment, and you have such season. Man, I fought the enemy before. I've withstood his temptation. I've resisted him. Was because you're almost there that he keeps coming back. Maybe you're almost there at the start of something new, a new season, a new ministry God has put you in. You're almost there the completion of a degree God invited you to pursue, or a business he invited you to start. You're in your almost there moment, but know that just when you're at the cusp of something beautiful and something new and something to the glory of God, that's when distractions will come. In this chapter in Nehemiah is almost there moment. There are three types of distractions we see. First distraction is a distraction of opportunity. Distraction of opportunity. This kind of distraction is when the enemy tempts you to leave your assignment, your post, for a good idea, for an opportunity that seems really, really good and reasonable

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notice the rest of chapter two of verse two, Sanballat gesham sent me a message come let's meet together in the villages of the Ono Valley. They were planning to harm me. Let's meet together in the villages of Ono Valley, because they were planning to harm me. Now, just to review Sam ballet, all these guys, they're powerful, influential political leaders in the nearby region. They're the ones who try to ridicule and attack Nehemiah, but when that didn't work now, they in. Invite him to a meeting. Be careful all the Be careful for all the meeting invitations you may get. Hey, just come down the wall and join us at a meeting. To me, this would have sounded reasonable. I would have thought, hey, maybe this is a chance for diplomacy if we're to collaborate together and work together. Man, these powerful guys who have been against thee, now they want to meet. Now they're courting me. Now they want to invite me to coffee or lunch. This sounds like a reasonable break, and Nehemiah could have done that. And it says, Hey, let's meet in the villages of the Ono Valley. The Ono Valley was a neutral place between Judah and Samaria, a neutral place. The devil was in the details, and this opportunity was presenting itself to be really, really good, but not every good opportunity is a god opportunity. Sometimes, sometimes distractions, wear really nice clothes, clothes of flattery, and have a good opportunity. It sounds reasonable. Yeah, you know what? I've been working hard at this. I'm gonna take a break and meet with these guys. It's time to have a conversation. It's just a conversation. Where could it go? It's just harmless. It's just a text, just an email, just a meeting, it's just a seven day trial period. I mean, what could happen three years later. So it starts invitation to a good opportunity. But Nehemiah discerned that this good opportunity was for his harm. They intended to harm me next verse. Look at his reply. So I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing important work and cannot come down. That's a good scripture worth quoting. That's a good out of office message. For some of you, I am doing good work and I cannot come down. Just have it in your saved text message. Just to send you, don't just say anything else. I'm just quoting scripture. I'm doing important work.

Cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you. Four times, they sent me the message of the same proposal and I gave them the same reply. Why should I leave come down to you? I'm doing important work. This is how I know Nehemiah and I are different, because I would have delayed my nail check with me tomorrow. Maybe we can hang out then check with me in a week, check with me in a month. No, no. Nehemiah says no. In a sense, you can say he was invited to Ono Valley, and he said, Oh no. He gave an OH NO to Ono Valley. He was polite, but firm. He just had to say, no notice. They came back four times, meaning they were committed to derail the work of God. They were hoping his resistance would lessen and they could have a foothold into the kind heart of Nehemiah. But he stayed steady because he knew that what he was called to was significant, that what he was doing was important. He knew that the calling of God mattered more than their request, and so he stayed committed to the call to the mission. What was priority to him? It's been said that Billy Graham has preached the gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone in history, and I think that's true, two 15 million people who heard the gospel from his lips in 185 countries. But what you may not know is that the height of his ministry, as he was preaching the gospel to millions. There was a group of leaders who once gathered around him and said, Hey, we would like to build a Christian university in your name. In fact, 22 cities in America have offered all the land you need, free land, free financing, even labor like they're willing to build you a Christian university. Would you do it? Could we run a university that you would kind of lead and have your name on? Sounds like a dream opportunity for many like free land, free funds, people ready to do the work. Billy Graham paused, he prayed, and then he said, Thanks for the opportunity, but that would be a great diversion from God's call on my life to preach the gospel worldwide and the whole gospel crusades. It's not because he was against Christian education. He just knew that was not his calling. His calling was to preach the gospel, not to administrate a university. The distraction of opportunity takes your best yes away from your calling and to other good things, things that seem good, but they're not of God. Now, of all the three we're going to talk about, this is probably my greatest temptation, as you've seen in the Charlie Sheen story. But I've come to realize, man, every yes means a no to something else. And every time I say no, it is actually an empowering and a freedom to say yes to my family or to the best things that God has called me to. When you stay on the wall, it might mean you don't engage and respond to every social media post. It might mean that you don't have to give an opinion on every controversial topic out there. You save your yes to God's call on your life. If you're in a dating season of life, it may mean that's a good relationship, but if that relationship hinders you from the call of God, that's not God's opportunity. That might be a great job offering you a lot of money and benefits, but will it help your call, or will it hinder your call? Save your best yes for God's call. This was the distraction of opportunity. Second of all, there is a distraction of false accusation. Distraction of false accusation. Verse five reads like this, send ballots. Sent me the same message a fifth time by his aide who had an open letter in his hand, an open letter. Now, in ancient times, letters were usually sealed and closed, which meant that the seal could only be broken by the receiver of that letter. That's kind of the stamp of approval. Or, hey, this hasn't been read yet. Or this is safe for you. Only the receiver would open the letter, but this letter, notice it's not a closed letter. It's an open letter, meaning it's a circulating letter. It's written to Nehemiah, but it's meant for everybody to read before he got to him. It's a massive PR campaign full of false accusations to derail the work of God to build intimidation and doubt and fear. It's gossip, that's what it is. So he got an open letter notice the variety of accusations in it. In it was written. It is reported among the nations, and Geshem agrees that you and the Jews plan to rebel. This is the reason you are building the wall. The reason you're building it is because you want to rebel against Persia and the kingdoms nearby. It's even reported that you are to become their king. And have even set up the prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim, on your behalf that there is a king in Judah. These rumors will be heard by the king. So come, let's confer together. By the way, this is the king that gave Nehemiah the permission to go and rebuild. But notice the rumors you're building to rebel. You're going to be a king, and you've sent prophets to declare there's a new king in Judah, and we're going to tell the king that you want to be a king. So can we meet? So let's get together. It's the distraction of false accusation. What they're hoping Nehemiah would do is come off the wall and spend all his time defending himself, proving himself to be innocent, that he would chase these rumors, defend himself and never finish the work of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Now I have to say this, there is a difference between healthy criticism and false accusation. Healthy criticism is good when leaders do things that are not biblical, when actions or attitudes are had that are a compromise to moral and ethical integrity, those things should be called out. Those should be addressed, and leaders should answer healthy criticism. Now it's important to say that, because sometimes leaders will deflect good accountability and call it spiritual warfare, when it's actually God's discipline in their life, and they need to listen and correct their ways.

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Feedback doesn't feel good, but it is good. It helps you grow, even if 100% of it isn't true. Look for what is true. Look for what you can learn. Healthy criticism is a good thing. That is not what this is. What Nehemiah is facing is not healthy

criticism. It's not constructive feedback. It is destructive accusation to derail him, to cause doubt and to distrust his motive and breathe and to breathe fear into the people he is leading, so that he will spend his whole time chasing rumors. So notice what he's doing. Verse eight. Then I replied to him, there is nothing to these rumors you are spreading. You are inventing them in your own mind, for they were all trying to intimidate us, saying they will drop their hands from the work and it will never be finished. But now I love this prayer, but now my God strengthen my hands. They're hoping that our hands will drop. So God, would you strengthen my hands? Would you strengthen my hands? You can't chase rumors and finish a wall at the same time, and you don't have to carry the weight of convincing somebody what truth is you say it to them you trust God with the outcome. If Nehemiah had gone and had more meetings and had more conversations trying to disprove there, it would have taken months. So what does he do? He states the truth. He's honest about it. He doesn't make up anything. He's honest. And then he gets back to work. He trusts in God. He asks God to strengthen his hands. So some of you, if you're feeling the pressure to have to prove to everybody who you really are, state the truth and keep going, you leave the results to God. Otherwise it'll become a distraction that'll take all of your energy. If there is healthy criticism in it, address it. Learn from it. Admit it. If it's all false, you keep building what God has called you to build distraction. Number one, distraction of a good opportunity. Number two, false accusations. And here's the third one, distraction of compromise, distraction of compromise. So Sam The Ballad of the team, they cannot get Nehemiah to leave the wall to join him in a meeting. They can't get him to defend himself and spend all his energy doing that. So now there's a third strategy. Look at verse 10. I went to the house of shemai, son of Daliah. Now Shema is the friend of Nehemiah. He's close enough that he would go to his house. So I went to shemiah's house, son of meherbal, who was restricted to his house. He said, Let's meet at the house of God, inside the temple. Shemaiah is also a priest who has access to the temple of God. So he's saying, Hey, let's go to the house of God and meet inside the temple. Let's shut the temple doors, because they're coming to kill you. Play some dramatic music. They're coming to kill you tonight. Okay? They're coming to kill you. They're taking you out tonight. But I said, Should a man like me run away? How could someone like me enter the temple and live? I will not go, and I had realized that God had not sent him because of the prophecy he spoke against me, Tobiah and samballet had hired him. He was hired so that I would be intimidated do as he suggested, sin and get a bad reputation in order that they could discredit me. Wow, it's a pretty complicated strategy, isn't it? Sanballat and Tobiah can't get Nehemiah to come off the wall, so they hire his friend, Shemaiah, who's a priest who Nehemiah had trusted before. He had trusted him enough to go to his house, and she may have says, Look, man, they're coming to kill you tonight, and the only way to protect your life is to go into the temple of God and hide there. But here's what you got to know. In the ancient times, not everybody could go into the temple of God. Only the priests could, in fact, only the high priest could go into the temple of God. Uzziah, King Uzziah, once went into the temple of God with good intentions. Burned incense, incense, and he was struck with leprosy until he died. Shemaiah, hired by sand ballot, wants Nehemiah to be intimidated so that he would actually sin by going into the temple, and if he could get Nehemiah afraid of men, break the law of God, enter the temple of God, commit sin, then everybody in Jerusalem would know that Nehemiah is not a man of God, and it says that his reputation will be ruined and his work would be discredited. This was the temptation, the distraction of compromise, to cause him to sin, out of fear for people to ruin reputation and discredit his work. But Nehemiah had enough self awareness to know this could not be from God, because he realized if his prophecy is causing me to sin, that's not of God. And can I just tell you this, no word from God will ever contradict the Word of God. People can say they have a personal revelation from God about you, but if it doesn't bear witness to the truth of the revealed scriptures of what God has spoken. It is not from God. God won't violate his own word. People may sound spiritual. They may even be your friends. You might even have trusted them before they could dress up lies in spiritual language, but if it causes you to disobey God and sin, it is coming from the pit of hell itself. It is not coming from God. But the only way to discern what is a lie is know what is true is to be in your word to know what God says is true about you, true about the world, true about your family, true about marriage, true about life and integrity. It is to know what God says is true so that you can sniff out what is not true. So discern, even in spiritual settings, does this bear witness to the revealed scriptures in the way of Jesus, if it doesn't, call it what it is and reject it, because the temptation of compromise is real. A friend of mine a few years told me that he was on a flight and he noticed a guy next to him had his head bowed, head bowed and praying. And so a little later, when he lifted his head back up, he asked him, Hey, are you a Christian? Are you praying because I'm a Christian too. And he says, no, no, I'm not a Christian, but I am praying. And he said, I'm praying for 100 pastors to fall out of ministry this year. Said, I'm praying for 100 pastors to have either moral failure or compromise and fall out of ministry. Satan is doing with Sanballat and Tobiah wanted to cause the people of God, especially leaders, to fall for ministry through compromise, either through the compromise of needing to protect oneself or to feed their ego, to give in to fleshly desires or feel invisible meet a desire that whatever it may be, so that what Nehemiah was afraid of would happen. Reputation is ruined. Works are discredited. They fall into sin. This is a distraction of compromise. I wonder which of these is a real temptation for you. Maybe in the season you're in distraction of a good opportunity, false accusation or

compromise. What I find to be common in all these three distractions or temptation is the pull to cause Nehemiah to be afraid of people more than he is afraid of God. It's what the Bible calls the fear of man. The fear of man is this craving for approval or a fear of rejection, either a craving to be approved by people or a real fear of being rejected by people. If Nehemiah was operating in the fear of mankind or people, then he would have come down in the first distraction, left the wall and had a meeting to curry their favor, to try to collaborate, to reach diplomacy, because he wanted to be liked and accepted by them. If he wanted to be liked, he would have tried to defend himself, they would accept him and clear up the confusion. That would have been an act of needing people's approval. If he was afraid of people, he would have compromised, sinned and run into the temple because he didn't want people to kill him. But what he chose, in every instance, was not the fear of people, but it was an awe and fear and reverence for God. Proverbs, 29 verse 25 says, the fear of mankind is a snare,

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but those who trust in the Lord are protected the fear of man, the fear of people, that is a snare. If you're constantly living for the praises of people, then you're going to die by the criticism of people. The fear of man is a snare, but those who trust in the Lord, who trust in his calling, who revere him, and the fear of God isn't a negative thing. It is a good thing. It's the beginning of wisdom. Fear of God doesn't mean you're afraid of God, but you're just afraid of being apart from God, because you know the best thing is to be in alignment with what he has for your life and his calling on your life, who he is. It's often the fear of people, either the wanting to be approved or fear of rejection, that causes us to come down the wall and compromise turn to another opportunity that God did not invite you to, but a healthy fear of God keeps you yes to the things of God and the calling of God. The healthy fear of God says I'm going to be honest and I'm going to trust him to vindicate me. Healthy fear of God says I'm not going to sin to protect my life or to save my reputation, whatever it may be, I'm going to trust God and walk in it to. Buddy. So Nehemiah again in chapter six, when he's almost there, overcomes these last set of temptations and distractions. And now we get to chapter 50. So give me a drum roll on your lap. Here we go. Chapter verse six. Chapter six, verse 15, the wall was completed in 52 days. Come on, let's give it up for Nehemiah, the wall was completed in 52 days. I read that, and I thought, man, if these guys could get it done in 52 days, how do we get that crew to come and work on it because it's been 52 years, still a mess, but they got the job done in 52 days. Chapter One, Nehemiah prays and fasts and mourns for four months. Finally, in chapter two, he gets from mission and he travels for four to five months, and nine months later from hearing what's happening in Jerusalem, he gets to Jerusalem, he rests for three days, and he goes surveys the wall and gathers a team, and they go to work, and through their opposition, through ridicule, through lies one after another, through their own internal injustice, they kept going, trusting in God, and the job was done. The walls that had been in ruin for 141 years 141 years were rebuilt in how long 52 days, all because one man felt the call of God to rebuild and to partner with God in what he wanted to do. So they built the wall in 52 days on the 25th day of the month of Elul, and notice what happens and who gets the credit. Next verse says, when all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence. The literal word of the Hebrew for confidence is they fell from their own eyes, meaning they had propped themselves in pride, thinking they could stop the work of God, but when they saw the wall be built, they lost this arrogant self confidence and pride. Nehemiah didn't step in with his own pride. But what did he do for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God. They didn't say man. Nehemiah is an amazing general contractor. No, no. They didn't say man. The people in Jerusalem, they know how to build. They know how to construct. No, no, they didn't say they did it. They said their God did it. These people lost self confidence because Nehemiah's God was faithful. And it's not just Nehemiah's God now our God, this collective community, said our God, accomplished this. It wasn't man's brilliance or people's strategy or their commitment that made this happen. It was God who did it. And here's what Sanballat didn't know there was a king in Judah, but it was in Nehemiah. The king in Judah was a king of kings, the Lord of Lords. He was the one who was enabling his people for the work. And what they didn't realize that if God had begun a work, then God was going to be faithful to complete the work he started that they didn't realize that this was not dependent on people. It was dependent on the God of angel armies. And when he is on your side, who can be against you, this God is unstoppable, therefore his mission is possible. This is the same king who is on your side, that you worship, that you walk with. In fact, he is the king inside of you, an unstoppable God, the One who finishes what He started, who gives courage to the weak and strength to the weary. So if he started a good work. He'll finish it. So don't give up when you're almost there a moment thinking, well, it's worth to get this far. No, keep staying. May He give you staying power. So the people realized, man, their God is good, their God is able. Their god is strong, the mission, he's called you to, the ministry, the work. What is he building? I'm going to end our time with going back to that verse in Nehemiah 69 where Nehemiah prays a prayer, God, strengthen my hands. Strengthen my hands. So would you put your hands palm up for a moment, and my prayer for you today, as a God who would strengthen your hands, I wonder what your hands have been

called to build. Maybe it is to serve those in need. And it could be that your hands have been at work in the work of God, and they feel. Tired today they feel weary. It could be your hands of scars, because the people you try to serve, they wounded you. It could be that you carry the wounds of a soul of a heart broken relationships and your hands feel weary. Today, we are going to ask the power of God to strengthen your hands, because the work he's called you to is worth it. It could be to build a life that honors him, to build a family, some single parents in this room who feel tired in the building up of your children's life because you're alone and you feel by yourself today, God is strengthening your hand. Maybe you're starting a marriage and you're building your marriage, or you're protecting your marriage and you want to leave and you want to quit. May God strengthen your hand for the work he's called you. Maybe you've been cultivating faith in the lives of your children, and they seem to take steps away from God, not toward him. You're thinking, man, is it even worth it? Oh, God, would you strengthen the weary hands? Maybe it's a ministry he's placed on you a group of people. Maybe it's missions. Maybe it's serving in your workplace, bringing the Gospel. Maybe it's just a career he's inviting you to build. He's strengthening your hands the work will be finished. Sometimes it doesn't take 52 days. It takes years and decades. Now I just want you to imagine the nail pierced hands of Jesus surrounding your hands, your human hands. When I read that verse, The Wall was finished, I just kept thinking the phrase, it is finished, the greatest work was your salvation. And Jesus was falsely accused. They said he was a blasphemer. Came to tear down the temple that he was the devil himself. The enemy kept offering him opportunities to bypass the cross, to compromise even there in the Garden of Gethsemane, but he endured all of it because you are worth it, so his hands would be nailed to a cross, and his last words would be, it is finished. Sins are forgiven. Guilt is erased, your shame is lifted. You have new life. You are new. For some of you today, your next step is to give your hand to his hand. So Jesus, take a hold of my life. I come into my heart. I receive you. I see the nail pierced hands of Jesus that were nailed from me. You can finish what he started, because he always finishes what he started. He is your power and strength so, Father, we give our feeble hands to you because your hand is strong. And all throughout Nehemiah, the phrase the gracious hand of God was on me keeps coming up, and I pray right now that the gracious hand of God will be on us, that our hands but fully rest in your mighty hands. So strengthen my brothers and sisters for the work you've called them to remove the distractions, or at least help us see and focus. Fix our eyes on Jesus through the distraction, and keep staying in mission on mission with you. Keep doing the work God's invited you to do. So our hands are in your hands, Jesus, strengthen us for the work. We love you, we trust you. And when it's all said and done, our neighbors, our friends and even those who don't know you, will say their God did this, and you will get the glory, and you will get all the praise and in Jesus name, we said, Amen, let's put those hands together and give Jesus a praise. Amen, amen.