

Northeast Bible Church – Growth Group Resource

01-27-2019 – Terry S. Bolds

“The Mission Is Possible, Because Jesus Provides The Power!”

The book of Nehemiah is an ancient Hebrew narrative about a man on a mission to
man life better for others.

A NEBC primary church directive: “Here at NEBC, we are doing only **one thing**. It is to: **M**
M and **B** **D** of **J** **C**!”

When Pastor Rice calls me, I accept his call, because it is usually a chance to make a big
difference in the life of others. It is almost always an opportunity to join him as he joins God
on the awesome mission to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

“When you use the tool that Nehemiah used you will know with confidence that **the**
mission that seems impossible, can only be possible, when you depend on
Jesus to provide the power to get the job done!”

*Snapshot of the book of Nehemiah taken from the Life Application Bible Tyndale House
Publishers, Inc. 2007*

“It is easy to analyze, scrutinize, and *talk* about all the problems in the world. But what we really
need are people who will not just discuss a situation but who will *do* something about it!
Nehemiah saw a problem and was distressed. Instead of complaining or wallowing in self-pity
and grief, he took action. Nehemiah knew that God wanted him to motivate the Jews to rebuild
Jerusalem's walls, so he left a responsible position in the Persian government to do what God
wanted. Nehemiah knew God could use his talents to get the job done. From the moment he
arrived in Jerusalem, everyone knew who was in charge. He organized, managed, supervised,
encouraged, met opposition, confronted injustice, and kept going until the walls were built.
Nehemiah was a man of action.

The story begins with Nehemiah talking with fellow Jews who reported that the walls and gates
of Jerusalem were in disrepair. This was disturbing news, and rebuilding those walls became
Nehemiah's burden. At the appropriate time, Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for permission to
go to Jerusalem to rebuild its fallen walls. The king approved.

Armed with royal letters, Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem. He organized the people into groups
and assigned them to specific sections of the wall ([chapter 3](#)). The construction project was not
without opposition, however. Sanballat, Tobiah, and others tried to halt the work with insults,
ridicule, threats, and sabotage. Some of the workers became fearful; others became weary. In
each case, Nehemiah employed a strategy to frustrate the enemies—prayer, encouragement,
guard duty, consolidation ([chapter 4](#)). But a different problem arose—an internal one. Rich Jews
were profiteering off the plight of their working countrymen. Hearing of their oppression and
greed, Nehemiah confronted the extortioners face to face ([chapter 5](#)). Then, with the walls almost
complete, Sanballat, Tobiah, and company tried one last time to stop Nehemiah. But Nehemiah

stood firm, and the wall was finished in just 52 days. What a tremendous monument to God's love and faithfulness. Enemies and friends alike knew that God had helped ([chapter 6](#)).

After building the walls, Nehemiah continued to organize the people, taking a registration and appointing gatekeepers, Levites, and other officials ([chapter 7](#)). Ezra led the city in worship and Bible instruction ([chapters 8-9](#)). This led to a reaffirmation of faith and religious revival as the people promised to serve God faithfully ([chapters 10-11](#)).

Nehemiah closes with the listing of the clans and their leaders, the dedication of the new wall of Jerusalem, and the purging of sin from the land ([chapters 12-13](#)). As you read this book, watch Nehemiah in action—and determine to be a person on whom God can depend to *act* for him in the world.”

The Power of Prayer

-How are things back at home?

Nehemiah 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, *in* the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, ² that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

Jerusalem was once a thriving center of worship for the people of God. However, when they neglected worship and began giving devotion to other gods. God allowed her enemy to carry the Jews away to a foreign land to be disciplined. He allowed the great city to be ravaged to rubble. Their great name was now associated with great shame.

What are some things Christians get into that is shameful, harmful, and are a cause for God's rebuke? 1 Cor. 15:33-34

-Things are a mess, what are you going to do about it?

Nehemiah 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ 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.

How can you tell if someone is passionate about the work of God? or the plight of their hurting brothers and sisters? Do you care about the world who needs to know your God? Are you willing to ask God to send you on a special assignment? How far are you willing to go? How much are you willing to sacrifice? What is the limit of the risk you are willing to take?

Nehemiah 1:5 (NKJV) ⁵ 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,

Nehemiah recognizes that that God is the solution to the problems back home. God is all powerful and that He is a **Promise Keeper**. Do you take time to search the scriptures to know more about God's character? Share a time when God kept a specific promise to you? What scripture did you stand on or remind Him of? Share one of your favorite promises? How can you turn that promise into a prayer?

Nehemiah 1:6-7 (NKJV) 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. Both my father's house and I have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

Do you own up to your sin? Do you try to excuse your failures? Is it always someone else's fault? What can we learn from 1 John 1:8-10?

-Get down on your knees to pray, stand to your feet in faith, go make a difference with the power of his promise.

Nehemiah 1:8-11 (NKJV) ⁸ Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; ⁹ but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.' ¹⁰ Now these *are* Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

God has placed some of you in a very special place of favor, not to just enjoy the good life. Could it be that you are where you are so that God can use you and your connections? Could it be that He wants to use you and your access to resources? Could it be that God wants to use you and your influence to be a huge blessing, an aide in someone's deliverance or the spark that starts a revival of many others.

How are the following scriptures important to the call of God on our life? What is the impact if we do not obey?

John 1:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

You Have The Power To Make This World A Better Place!

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