

"Come Let Us Serve Jesus Together"
Nehemiah 2.11-20

Bkgd. Call of Abe - 2000 BC - Land of Canaan - Nation of Israel
1000 BC Glorious Reigns DAVID/Solomon

Broken Covenant CURSINGS / Nation Divided / Conquered / Destroyed
Hiroshima / Berlin after WW 2 / fields salted

Exiles - Babylonian Captivity / FORGOT: language, worship, God
Remaining "poor of the land" SCAVENGERS

NEHEMIAH 1.11 "cupbearer to the king" / TRUSTED, IMPORTANT ROLE
"official taster" - poisoned? no more cupbearer, long live king!

REFUGEE IN BABYLONIA / EXILED

"By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered □
Zion..If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its □
skill. May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not □
remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy"
Psalm 137.1,5,6

Jerusalem "City of Great King" / Temple "dwelling place of God"

□1. Calling for Service□ CALLING OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

□a. Feel the Burden□

1.4 "the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have □
been burned with fire"

800 miles away / lucrative job with lots of percs

Heart broken by what breaks the heart of God
Jealous for His honor and glory

Christian service is CAUGHT more than TAUGHT

GOD CAN SPEAK THRU ordinary means ...

REPORTS OF EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY IN FAR EAST -
Wm. Carey - "father of modern day missionary movement"

Seminary student - final exams - Hebrew, Greek, theology
campus bookstore "A Distant Grief" suffering Xtians in Uganda
COURSE OF MY LIFE CHANGED

TV news - Bangla Desh, India, famine in Africa
Tribune-Herald teen-age gangs, suicide

God spoke to Nehemiah, BECAUSE GOD WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WALLS

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion □
on the child she has borne? Though she may forget you, I will not □
forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; □
YOUR WALLS ARE EVER BEFORE ME." Isaiah 49.15,16

Call to build walls began w/ call to weep over their destruction

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I □
mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven" v. 4

Led to call to prayer

□b. Commit it to Prayer □ 1.4b-11, 2.4

Saints in heaven "those who had been slain because of the word □
of God - see world - EVIL APPARENTLY UNCHECKED...
"How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the □
inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Rev 6.10

From Babylon prays to God for Jerusalem, Uganda, Bangla Desh, HHS

"O Lord, God of Heaven, the great and awesome God"

God of King Artaxerxes "The king's heart is in the hand of the □
Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."
Proverbs 21.1

"It is possible to move men through God by prayer alone" □
Hudson Taylor

□c. Develop the Plan □ 2.7-9 Fail to Plan, plan to fail

Jerusalem 800 mi. away / ...over 4 months passed -

2.7,8 Letters - Practical not Presumption

Revolutionary War Soldiers "trust in God but keep your powder dry"

No contradiction w/ prayer

"And because the GRACIOUS HAND OF MY GOD was UPON ME, the king □
granted my requests." 2.8

Š□d. Do the Research□ 2.13-15

Paul walked around Athens / Noboru will reflect on streets Japan

Ex. Missions/Africa, Hilo NOT EXCUSE "born and raised here"

Understand, Respect - MAYBE NOT Agree

□e. Use Discretion□ 2.12,16 "be slow to speak" / VERBAL DIAHREA

"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his □
tongue is wise" Proverbs 10.19

"Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows □
no discretion" Proverbs 11.22

Nothing DESTROYS CHURCH/MINISTRY faster than GOSSIP

2 Questions: WHO needs to know? WHEN do they need to know?

"be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves"
Matthew 10.16

"we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use □
deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by □
setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every □
man's conscience in the sight of God." 2 Corinthians 4.2

□2. Challenge to Service□ NEHEMIAH COULD NOT BUILD WALLS ALONE

□a. Study the Site□ 2.17 "Jerusalem lies in ruins"

Possible to live in it and not see it

John 4 - Many Samaritans coming to Jesus as Messiah / "Do not □
say, 'Four more months and then the harvest' I tell you OPEN YOUR □
EYES AND LOOK at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" v. 35

EX. every church believes they are friendly church / others leave

□b. Sense the Shame□ 2.17c "we will no longer be in DISGRACE"

Did not offer free pencils for Memorizing Scripture

All-expense-paid VACATION for 2 to Dead Sea for Participation

Appeal to their dignity / DISGRACE - BROKEN WALLS ARE A SHAME

Society NO MORE SHAME - Ex. "bless..boyfriend, we live together"

50% of all teens who commit suicide - BROKEN HOMES

□c. See the Signs□ 2.18a

Blessing of God / and sin, when it is full-grown, gives
birth □
to death.

2. □The Impossible Demands of God□

a. □Total Commitment□ v. 22 SELL ALL AND FOLLOW

NOT WORKS - complete trust in God

Fire in Harlem NYC - Blind girl on 4th Floor landing
Fireman desperate - Ladder would not reach
She refused to jump into safety net
Father - Bullhorn - Net was there - JUMP!
so trusted - relaxed - not a broken bone - strained muscle

Wrong to want something? Like something? Someone?
Coveting - goes beyond Natural Desire
SELFHOOD AND MEANING CAN BE HAD ONLY IF WE POSSESS SOMETHING
CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT IT

□1) Thoughts Always on World□

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this □
world but be transformed by the renewing Of your mind. Then you □
will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, □
pleasing and perfect will.

§CONTENTMENT -

LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made □
my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant □
places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. Psalm 16.5,6

□2) Efforts Spent on Earthly Things□

World Asks Why Not? - DRIVE TO EXCELLENCE - PROGRESS
18th Cent. English Philosopher "Sin Makes the World Go Round"

Advances - Science, Technology, Literature, Art, Architecture
Standard - Word of God / Motive - Love of God / Goal - Glory of G

Man builds barns for wealth "soul take thine ease"
YOU FOOL - TONIGHT IS YOUR SOUL REQUIRED OF YOU
He mistook his stomach for his soul

Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the □
whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in □
exchange for his soul?

□3) Talk About the World□

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or □
that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." □
's 26th Pres. "Mr. Roosevelt, you are a □
great man." In characteristic honesty he replied, "No Teddy □
Roosevelt is a plain, ordinary man - highly motivated."

Reward of the Laborers "having a share in Jerusalem"

"Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. □
Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my □
God and the name of the city of my God, the NEW JERUSALEM."

Revelation 3.12