

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 4

NOTES FROM LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE _____

V1-2. OPPOSITION AND CONFLICT

- YOU WILL NEVER GET 100% COOPERATION
 - CHAPTER 3-THE TEKOITE NOBLES 40 SECTIONS STILL WITH ONE UNCOOPERATIVE
 - JESUS HIMSELF HAS 12 DISCIPLES AND DISPIE MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE, COULD NOT GAIN 100% COOPERATION
- WHERE THE LORD IS WORKING, SO IS THE ADVERSARY
 - WE DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK ABOUT PERSEVERANCE WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WELL, OR BLESSINGS ARE POURING IN, OR WHAT WE ARE DOING IS POPULAR
 - PERSEVERANCE PRESUPPOSES STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT-(OUTRAGE AND ANGER- V.1)
 - *It is possible to pursue unworthy things, in unworthy ways, and reach for unworthy goals, but where direction, principals, and priorities are worthy-perseverance is essential to our Christian walk (UNWORTHY: PAUL >PETER-TURN AWAY!)*
 - WE MUST LEARN TO ENDURE HARDSHIP AND NEVER, EVER GIVE UP

V2-3. COUNT ON RIDICULE

- YOU CAN COUNT ON RIDICULE
 - V3-4. OPPOSITION OFTEN INVOLVES OTHER PEOPLE AND MOCKERY OR RIDICULE ARE COMMON WEAPONS USED
 - NAYSAYERS CONSUME A GREAT DEAL OF EMOTIONAL ENERGY
 - *Sometimes the only thing that stands between genuine moral outrage and really cheap vindictiveness is our reputation or insecurity.*

V4-5. ANOTHER PRAYER

- NEHEMIH ASKS GOD FOR SIMPLE JUSTICE
- HE REMINDS THE PEOPLE WHO IS IN CHARGE

V6. SO THEY BUILT

- ANOTHER SUMMATION SENTENCE OF OBEDIENCE THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE EFFORT, STRUGGLE, OR TRIALS THAT WERE FACED DURING THE ENTIRE FIRST HALF OF THE TASK
- BUT NONETHELESS, WE SEE THE WALL LINKING TOGETHER, THE PICTURE OF A PEOPLE GAINING FORTITUDE AND STRENGTH, MOMENTUM BUILDING, GOD'S WILL AND PLAN UNFOLDING

V7-23. DIRECT AND DANGEROUS OPPOSITION

- VERSE 7-THE ANGER CONTINUES
- VERSE 8, 11-PLOTS TO CONFUSE AND KILL ARISE
- VERSE 9-PRAYER CONTINUES, GUARDS ARE POSTED
 - *This is an excellent example of divine sovereignty and human responsibility.*
 - *God uses us as we trust Him and guides us to ACTION!*
 - *Do you tend to lean toward self provision or toward inactivity/idleness when overwhelmed?*

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 4

- VERSE 12- FEAR COMES CALLING, AND IT ECHOES
- VERSE 13- PROFOUNDLY PRACTICAL AND TACTICAL. THE WORK STOPPED AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE TO PREPARE FOR AMBUSH
 - MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP & GOD'S LOCAL WORK HERE NEED LEADERS WHO HAVE BOTH.
- VERSE 14, 20- AGAIN THE MOST FREQUENT COMMAND IN THE BIBLE IS HEARD: DO NOT FEAR!
 - NEHEMIAH REMINDS THEM THE LORD IS FIGHTING THE BATTLE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND HOMES
 - *What area do you need to be reminded that the LORD is fighting even now for your families and your homes?*
- VERSE 15- GOD FRUSTRATED THEIR PLAN AND THEY WENT BACK TO WORK
- VERSE 16 THRU 23- WORKING WITH WEAPONS
 - GREAT PICTURE OF PERSEVERANCE DURING OPPOSITION
 - BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MATT 5:10
 - BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE YOU AND FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME. MATTHEW 5:11
 - 2 TIM 3:12- DESPISED FOR THE SAKE OF THE LORD
 - *Where have you experienced opposition or persecution for doing the work of the LORD?*
 - ADDITIONAL (DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY/HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY)
 - ACTS 27:31- PAUL- STORM/ANGEL
 - JOB SUCCESS > TEMPTED WITH LOSS AND SUFFERING
 - CHRIST BAPTISED > INTO THE WILDERNESS
 - ELIJAH MT CARMEL > DEPRESSION
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“As long as [man] does not convert it into action, it does not matter how much he thinks about this new repentance... Wallow in it... Write a book about it; that is often an excellent way of sterilising the seeds which [Heavenly Father] plants in a human soul... Do anything but act. No amount of piety in his imagination and affections will harm [the cause of evil] if [it is kept] out of his will... The more often he feels without acting, the less he will ever be able to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel.”— **C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters**

What is something that was shared today that was meaningful to you or sparked an interest or excitement for further bible study?

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Consider where the LORD is calling you to put your faith in action.