

Old Testament Charactes: Nehemiah
Neh 1:4-6
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the valuable lessons we can learn from Nehemiah.

Intro:

- 1. There seems to be little doubt of the connection of the books of Nehemiah and Ezra.**
 - a. The earliest form of the Hebrew canon, both books were one.**
 - b. The both of them were simply called “the Book of Ezra.”**
 - i. Later they were divided and called “the First Book of Ezra,” and “the Second Book of Ezra.”**
 - ii. And again later, (approximately the end of the fourth century) the “Second Book of Ezra” was called “Nehemiah.”**

I. Getting to know Nehemiah

- A. **Nehemiah, means "consoled by Jehovah,"**
- B. Nehemiah prayed for others and himself. He cared for God’s people (**Neh 1:6**)

II. Nehemiah as a Leader

- A. He Agonized (**Neh 1:4-6**)
 1. When he saw the condition of God’s people in bondage & her city reportedly in ruins, he was greatly saddened.
 2. Today, can we be complacent while seeing the church being filled with error and apathy?
- B. He Analyzed
 1. Nehemiah determined to find the source of the problems, and he did – he found sin & rebellion. (**Neh 1:7**)
 2. It was time to quit complaining about their situation.
 3. He used the broken pieces of the wall to rebuild and remove their reproach (**Neh 1:3**)
- C. He Organized
 1. He removed any barriers that would prevent them from rebuilding. He received help from others in rebuilding (**Neh 2:7-8**).
 2. He gives glory to God for the aide he received from others (**Neh 2:8b**).
 3. He made sure he was prepared by survey the work that was to be done (**Neh 2:15**), he wanted to be prepared.
 - a. Many good works have died or never came into existence because of a lack of preparation and organization.
- D. He Supervised
 1. Nehemiah was involved in the work himself (**Neh 5:16**)
 2. He was an encourager for the other workers (**Neh 4:14**).

III. Things Nehemiah did not do.

1. Compromise with those on the outside
 - a. Some wanted a meeting with Nehemiah but he did not go because they wanted him to compromised. (**Neh 6:2-9**)

2. Allow people to break their promise to God
 - a. Nehemiah did all he could to solve any problems with those who might grow weary. (**Neh 5:13**).
3. Allow himself to abandon his promise to God He maintained his determination to build the wall (**Neh 4:6**).
 - a. Great things are accomplished when we are not afraid to work for them.

IV. Lessons for us today.

1. Nehemiah was greatly saddened by the state of the people and the walls of the city.
 - a. We too should be concerned about the state of the church today.
 - b. It will not change over night, and it will not change on the shoulders of only a few brethren.
2. Nehemiah was determined to restore what needed to be restored. He encouraged the people to care and to work to restore the walls.
 - a. We today should be determined to restore what needs to be restored and maintained what must be maintained.
3. We must not allow the world or our own “brethren” to deter us from doing good, godly works.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Do you have a determined mind like Nehemiah?
2. If not, why not? Even Christ, did not work alone.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9