

Title: Fulfilling God's Vision for the People

Passage: Nehemiah 6:15-7:4

Key Truths:

- Do not be arrogant - recognize that all things come from God.
- Be realistic - the work is never done.

Basic principles of leadership

1. Appoint people who do the right things first.
2. Learn delegation.
3. Appoint good leaders who are faithful and fear God.
4. Be generous.

Application:

- When the people are united with a clear vision for the present and future, they have supernatural results.
 - Unified unbelievers are stronger than divided believers.
 - When believers are unified, then we are stronger than unified unbelievers.
- It's all about Jesus.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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EXPOSITION

Introduction/Recap

Book of Nehemiah

- How relevant to today?
 - Living under a godless government in a godless culture as people were focused on their godless culture.
 - The people of God felt defeated and hopeless as they had assimilated with the countries around them.
- Recap/Review

- Nevertheless, God chose a simple man (Nehemiah) to do extraordinary things.
- Gave Nehemiah a vision to bring God's people together (rebuild wall) and bring back God's light to His people.
- Nehemiah goes before the same king that previously stopped the rebuilding of Jerusalem and asks to fund the rebuilding of the gates. Miraculously the king grants his request.
- When God is on the move, Satan is also on the move. When Nehemiah and others started work, they faced opposition from:
 - Without: Israelites enemies
 - Within: Israelites fought among themselves.
 - Personally: people wanted to kill him

EXPOSITION

Nehemiah 6:15-16

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

- final result of all their efforts and persistence.

And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

- "fell greatly in their own esteem" = ashamed
 - Realization that God has done the impossible in changing lives.

Mark 5:15

And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Matthew 19:26

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

- Christianity is not a religion but relationship with Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:18-20a

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise?

- There is always hope in Christ in changed lives. Your victory will be more than your losses.

accomplished with the help of our God.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- Every and any good in our lives is through and from God.
- Do not be arrogant - recognize that all things come from God.

Nehemiah 6:17-19

Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

- Within the church, people still sought to maneuver and persuade Nehemiah to think of his enemies otherwise.
- Be realistic - the work is never done.
 - People who are unconverted or unregenerated but are in church for their own advantage and profit.
- Remember that in God's economy, the heart is of most importance (not degrees or wealth or pedigree).

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Nehemiah 7:1

Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

Basic principles of leadership

1. Appoint people who do the right things first

- Nehemiah appointed gatekeepers, singers, and Levites.
 - Why?
 - Gatekeepers
 - secure borders
 - Singers and Levites (tribe who are in charge of worship at temple)
 - where God is worshipped is the backbone of a nation.
 - Lack of worship and places where people are able to meet God makes all other things meaningless.
 - God must be the center.

2. Learn Delegation

- Nehemiah was leading 50,000 people. He delegated duties.
- In the body of Christ, we need each other. Service is not optional.

3. Appoint good leaders who are faithful and fear God.

Nehemiah 7:2-4

I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes." The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.

- Key attributes
 - Faithful
 - Fearful of God

- (Not available)

4. Be generous

Nehemiah 7:70-73

Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver. And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver. And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments. So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.

- Giving by leaders:
 - in today's currency, this was about \$500 million.
- Giving towards God's kingdom and building places of worship is endorsed in the Scriptures.

APPLICATION POINTS

When the people are united with a clear vision for the present and future, they have supernatural results.

Nehemiah 6:15

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

- wall was re-built in just 52 days!
- Unified unbelievers are stronger than divided believers.
- When believers are unified, then we are stronger than unified unbelievers.

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

II. It's all about Jesus.

- Why did the Israelites do so much effort to rebuild the temple?
 - They had faith in the prophecy that the Anointed One would come, which Jesus did ultimately come.

- Likewise, all Scripture have its climatic point in Christ.
 - Everything has to be about Jesus.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.