

## **Nehemiah (God is Faithful)**

December 18, 2022

Pastor Jarrod Adkins

### **Nehemiah 2:5-16**

5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."

Cf. **Ezra 4:15-16; 21**

6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. 7 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Nehemiah converts pray his prayers into actions. Cf. **Colossians 4:2-5; Ephesians 5:15-16**

9 Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. 10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

- Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were regional governors serving under the king of Persia, who had been driven from the Promised Land by God and had returned after Israel's exile.

11 So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. 13 I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. 15 Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you

rebelling against the king?” 20 Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.”

### **1 John 4:1-6**

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 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. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Cf. **Acts 17:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21**

**There’s a time to wrestle with what you believe God is speaking to you and a time to follow through in obedience.**

**2 Timothy 2:13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

### **Discipleship Homework:**

Journal things God has asked you to be obedient in. **Follow that up with action.**

Before thinking of specific instructions, **are you being faithful to the many prescriptive commands in scripture now?** Be faithful in small things (Cf. Luke 16:10).

- No sex before marriage, Cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- Don’t covet and be content in Christ, Cf. Hebrews 13:5
- Don’t be drunk, but filled with the Holy Spirit, Cf. Ephesians 5:18
- Be gentle, Cf. 2 Timothy 2:24
- Be hospitable, Cf. Romans 12:13
- Forgive others, Cf. Ephesians 4:32
- Be patient, Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- Share the gospel, Cf. 1 Peter 3:15
- Help one another, Cf. Galatians 6:2
- Do everything for God’s glory, Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31

*\*You can google commands in the New Testament for more. Also, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to help you follow these commands.*

