



Nehemiah

"The Time is Now"
Success
5th March 2017



Overview

Suddenly in Nehemiah 6 we find that the wall is built! Despite the completion of the wall, Nehemiah kept facing opposition.



Getting to Know You

What are the first words that come to mind when you hear the word success?



Digging Deeper

1. More sinister opposition

In chapter 4 we saw the people continued to pray as the threats mounted when they worked away (4:4-5, 9). In response God frustrated their enemy's evil intentions (4:15).

Now Sanballat tries to isolate Nehemiah, spread rumours, and throw in some 'spiritual abuse' (6:1-13). Pastor Steve pointed out that Nehemiah had an appropriate answer each time.

What stands out to you about Nehemiah's character and ability to handle this new round of opposition (6:14)? What can we learn from this?

2. From completion to

When the community finished the wall in 52 days, their enemies were disheartened because they realised that God had helped his people to bring about this great accomplishment (6:16).

Does Mt Albert Baptist have this kind of witness in the community? How could we have more of this? Explain.

3. Spiritual Foundation

Let's review: From the series so far we have seen how Ezra, Nehemiah and other leaders sought to develop a spiritual foundation for the people. Nehemiah assured the people that God would "fight for" them (Neh 4:20 NIV), he promoted social justice (5:1-19), and encouraged the people to fear the Lord (5: 9, 15) and was an example of this by his attitude and actions.

How can you build a spiritual foundation

- a) in your life?
- b) In your peer group, Christian friends?
- c) in your home?

What would you include?



Taking it Home

One of the songs we sang on Sunday has the line:

"I am no longer a slave to fear - I am a child of God"

How does knowing your identity in Christ make a difference to your walk with God?

Does this help you counter spiritual abuse that you may face? How so?



Prayer

Pray that we would each grow in our identity in Christ so that we can be good ambassadors of the Lord – even to those who oppose God -- and move on to pursue God's direction and serve others.