

BRICK x BRICK

BRICKxBRICK: "Fighting with my Family" - Pastor Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes, October 16, 2022

Text: Nehemiah 6:15:16

Introduction

Why do people fight? Usually, it's because they have a passion for something or they want to protect someone. As the walls of Jerusalem got higher, so did the opposition Nehemiah and his people faced - but for every insult, distraction and threat of violence thrown their way, they faced it together, as family.

With no overt miracles, "supernatural" moments or divine interventions, the wall was rebuilt in astonishing time - there weren't any shortcuts or life hacks to make it easier, the people stayed focused and continued to grind it out - and God was with them giving fortitude & strength,

Philippians 2:13 - when we want a bailout, God gives opportunities to grow. Don't interpret the grind to be a sign God's not with you.

John 1:5,6 - Maturity, not miracles, is the reward of faith.

Nehemiah 4:14 - Remember the Lord & Fight for your family.

Nehemiah 3:12 - Fight with your family!

1) FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY

- Serving God is an Inter-generational affair:
- Psalm 78:7, Ephesians 2:8 - God has no grandchildren
- Cultivate environments for faith & relationship with God to grow
- To pass on faith, we need to lead by example
- The point of our lives is to point to Jesus
- Christianity isn't defined by the rules we live by, but the God we live for.

2) FILLING THE GAPS WHERE I LIVE

- Nehemiah 3 - Everyone was called to do something where they lived
- "It is easier to love humanity as a whole than to love one's neighbour." Eric Hoffer

BLOCK MAP EXERCISE

Think about the 8 houses closest to you.

1. In the 8 surrounding boxes write the names of your closest neighbours.
2. Below that, write anything you know about them – work, hobby, birthplace.
3. Below that, write anything deeper you know about them, dreams, desires, fears, struggles, spiritual journey

BRICK x BRICK FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY // FILLING THE GAPS WHERE I LIVE			
			

Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

Pastor Jeremy said it was easier to think of the 3 most influential people in our spiritual formation than it was to think of the 3 most influential sermons we've heard. Name one person and share how they influenced your spiritual development and share about one sermon that stands out to you and how it influenced you! Bonus points awarded if it was this weeks...just kidding!

Study & Discussion:

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Read Nehemiah 4:6-23, 6:15 - 7:3

4) How significant is it that this story is devoid of miracles or divine intervention, yet God is identified as "being with them in it". How can we find inspiration when the "grind" makes us feel like God isn't with us?

5) Read 1 John 1:5,6 - Pastor Jeremy said "*Maturity, not miracles, is the reward of faith.*" What comes to mind when you think about this statement?

5) If they did, how did you/your family cultivate environments for faith & relationship with God to grow for the younger generations? How can our church do this for the kids in our church family?

6) How did you do with the Block Map exercise (included on the front of this sheet.)? What are some ways, tips, tricks you've developed to foster relationship within your neighbourhood? Have they ever lead to sharing your faith in Jesus with your neighbour?

Prayer:

Take some time praying for each others' family, those who don't yet know God and those who need encouragement as they grow in their walk with Jesus. Then pray for your neighbourhoods, ask God what gap he might be giving you a burden & vision to fill in the "wall" of your community.

