

HOW TO STAY MOTIVATED FOR GOD
Sermon Outline — Nehemiah 2:9-20
Sermon Series: Nehemiah > Repair, Rebuild & Restore
Sunday, February 26, 2023
Kelly Stanley

1. There is no _____ without _____.

- † *Nehemiah 2:9-10*, “When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I delivered the king’s letters to them. The king, I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me. ¹⁰But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel” (NLT).
- The opposition is due to _____ and _____. Here’s why:
 - a. Sanballat, the Horonite — he was governor of _____, which was a country north of Judah. His name means “the moon god gives life.” He was a descendant of _____, a son conceived by incest between a drunken man named Lot (Abraham’s nephew) and Lot’s oldest daughter (ex. *Genesis 19:37*).
 - b. Tobiah, the Ammonite — he was the “governor” or ruler over a race of people called Ammonites. He is a descendant of _____, a second son conceived by incest between a drunken Lot (Abraham’s nephew) the same night from Lot’s youngest daughter (ex. *Genesis 19:38*).

2. There is no _____ without _____.

- † *Nehemiah 2:11-12a*, “So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, ¹²I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem” (NLT).

Why Didn’t Nehemiah Immediately Announce His Intentions And Start Rebuilding the Wall?

- a. A wise person refuels their _____ to be responsible for the _____ at hand. *Nehemiah 2:11-12a*, “So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, ¹²I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem” (NLT).
- b. A wise person _____ to access people’s _____. *Nehemiah 2:11-12a*, “So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, ¹²I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me . . . ” (NLT).
- c. A wise person gets an _____ from an _____. *Nehemiah 2:12b-15*, “We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. ¹³After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal’s Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. ¹⁴Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King’s Pool, but my donkey couldn’t get through the rubble. ¹⁵So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate” (NLT).
 - The Hebrew word translated as inspect is [רָשַׁע, sover] can be translated as “to carefully observe.” It is a verb that is used in the medical profession to describe the _____ to determine not only the damage but also the action needed for healing to take place.

3. There is little or no _____ from others without them knowing how this _____ will bring glory to God.

- † *Nehemiah 2:16-18*, “The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. ¹⁷“But now I said to them, ‘You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!’ ¹⁸“Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king” (NLT).
- The word translated as “disgrace” or “derision” or “reproach,” depending on your translation is the Hebrew word [חֶרְפָּה, cherpah]. It refers to the “_____ we bring upon God for our sin, rebellion and disobedience.”

Nehemiah Was Able To Motivate the Jews in Jerusalem To Rebuild the Wall Because . . .

1. Nehemiah had an _____.

- † *Nehemiah 2:17a*, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates have been burned by fire” (NASB).

2. Nehemiah _____ with them.

- † *Nehemiah 2:17*, “But now I said to them, “You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!” (NLT).

3. Nehemiah offered them an _____ that would _____.

† Nehemiah 2:17b, “Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach” (NKJV).

4. Nehemiah had a _____.

† Nehemiah 2:18, “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” (ESV).

† Nehemiah 2:19, “But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. “What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” they asked” (NLT).

- If you think that walking with Christ is a path strewn with flowers, think again. Jesus Christ warned His disciples that the object which would grace their necks would not be a _____ but a _____.

† Mathew 16:24, Jesus said, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me” (NLT).

The Opposition Express Itself In Two Main Ways Against Nehemiah

a. _____ (Nehemiahs 2:19b , “. . . they mocked us and despised us. . . (NASB).

b. _____ (Nehemiah 2:19c, “. . . what is this thing you are doing?” (NASB).

- Pastor Kelly’s definition of spiritual discouragement: Spiritual discouragement is the devil’s attempt to use others through their criticism, ridicule and rejection to get you to get your focus off of God and God’s purpose for your life by getting you to put the focus on yourself so that focus on your hurt. And when you do this, do you know what this is called? In our culture we call it a “_____.” Do you know what God calls it? — _____ because you have made it all about you and not about God.

† Ephesians 6:11-12, “Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. ¹²For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic and demonic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world” (TLB).

† Nehemiah 2:20, “The God of heaven will give us success and prosper us. We, His servants, will start rebuilding, but you have no share, claim, or memorial in Jerusalem” (EXB).

Based on Nehemiah 2:20, Nehemiah Said This To The Opposers (Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem)

1. This is _____, not mine.
2. We are only _____.
3. This work will not be accomplished by us, but by _____.
4. You have no _____ here. You have no share here. The Hebrew word is [חֻלְקָה, chaleq] and it means “smooth, smoothness.” It was used to refer to rocks in riverbeds that are so smooth. Over time it was used metaphorically to refer to when those same smooth rocks in riverbeds became slippery, causing you to fall. It was used to refer to when a person was “smooth” with their words to you — flattery, thus showing their hypocrisy and deception.
5. You have no _____ here. The Hebrew word translated as “right” is [צְדָקָה, tzedaka] and it means “truth, justice and righteousness.” Nehemiah said, “Because God rejected Moab, Ammon and Ishmael, you have no authority over anything in the land promised to Abraham, and this includes Jerusalem. Implied in this in that since they were governors over other countries, they had not right to require taxes or tribute from the citizens of Jerusalem.
6. You have no _____ here. The Hebrew word translated as “memorial” is [זִכָּרוֹן, zikkaron] and it means “a reminder.” This is a religious implication that could be amplified to read, “You have no place of worship within Jerusalem’s community of believers.”

How To Avoid the Danger of Discouragement

1. Accept and understand that God’s will is not always _____, but it is always _____ by His might. Jesus said in Matthew 19:26, “. . . with God all things are possible” (ESV).
2. God will never command you to do anything without providing the _____ and the _____ to accomplish it. Look at Philippians 2:13, “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (ESV). Look at Romans 8:37, “We are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (ESV).
3. Remember, there is no opportunity from _____ without opposition from _____. This means that _____ is close at hand. Look at 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (ESV).