



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, October 18, 2026

Nehemiah 1:1-11 – Nehemiah Arrives in Jerusalem (Part 1)

About 13 years after Ezra arrived in Jerusalem and carried out his reforms, Nehemiah received a distressing report about the people and the city walls of Jerusalem. He responded by fasting and praying.

Nehemiah...

- Acknowledged and worshipped the Lord
- Asked the Lord to be attentive to his cry
- Took accountability for and confessed the sins of the people
- Remembered the promises of the Lord
- Asked for the favor of the Lord to have success with the king

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by preparing for action with fasting and prayer.

As you pray to the Lord, whose eyes are on you and whose ears are attentive to your cry, may you extol the Lord at all times. May his praise always be on your lips. May you glorify the Lord and exalt his name together with your brothers and sisters. May you seek the Lord and find him. May you be delivered from all your fears and saved from all your troubles. May you taste and see that the Lord is good. May you fear the Lord, walk in his ways, and, therefore, lack nothing. May you keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. May you turn from evil and do good. May you seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:1-15)

Discussion Questions:

- What was Nehemiah's response to hearing that the Israelites in Jerusalem were in great trouble and disgrace, the walls were broken, and the gates were burned?
- How long did Nehemiah pray and seek the Lord before he could speak to the king?
- How did Nehemiah acknowledge and worship the Lord?
- What does it mean to ask the Lord to be attentive to our cry?
- Why should we take accountability for and confess the sins of our community?
- Why did Nehemiah remind the Lord of his promises?
- How can we receive the Lord's favor?
- What have you learned from Nehemiah's prayer?