

The Faith of Nehemiah

Nehemiah 5:14-19

History of Captivity

- Israel taken captive – 721-722bc
- Babylon captures Assyria – 605bc
- Medo-Persian empire conquers Babylon – 539bc
- Cyrus issues decree to let Jews return home

History of Captivity

- Zerubbabel led group – 536bc
- Ezra led a group back into the land – 458bc
- Nehemiah was commissioned to come to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls of the city – 444bc

Man of Prayer

- Prayed for favor and made confession – Neh. 1:4-11
- Prayed before the King – Neh. 2:4
- Prayed on many occasions – Neh. 4:4...
- **Prayer characterized his life; it was a reflection of his faith in God.**

Man of Prayer

- Acknowledges dependence on God – Col. 3:17
- It is commanded – 1 Thess. 5:17
- Brings God to action – Jms. 5:16-18
- Strengthens faith – Mk. 11:22-24
- **Are we a people of prayer? It is a direct reflection of our faith in God!**

Mind to Work

- Worked all through his time in Jerusalem – Neh. 4:6, 15; 5:16; 6:3
- Wall was completed in 52 days – Neh. 6:15
- Accomplishments are achieved when work is done – Titus 3:1, 8; James 2:14-26; Acts 10:34-35

Mind to Work

- Nehemiah knew his work was not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). He said it best, calling his commission "a great work." Today the Lord's people have a great work, to live faithfully (Eccl. 12:13; Rev. 2:10)

Man of Courage and Conviction

- Courage toward enemy – Neh. 4:4, 19; 6:11
- Courage when God's people sinned – 5:6-11
- Courage in confession of sins – Neh. 1:6-7
- Conviction in refusal to compromise – Neh. 6:1-9

Man of Courage and Conviction

- Lack of courage will cause one to be lost – Rev 21:8
- Stephen showed courage – Acts 7
- Paul showed courage – 2 Cor. 11:23-28; refused to compromise Gal. 2:4-5
- Early church – Acts 8:1, 4
- How much courage and conviction do we have?

Man of Action

- Seized opportunity to rebuild – ch. 1
- Armed men for battle – ch. 4
- Contended with Jews for usury – ch. 5
- Contended with Jews for Sabbath violation – ch. 13
- Plucked out the hair of some due to unlawful marriages – ch. 13

Man of Action

- The Lord wants men of action today – Gal. 2:4-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 3:15
- Paul took action, Timothy was told to take action, and we are told to take action!

Importance of Nehemiah's Faith

- Much to be learned – Rom. 15:4
- Hebrews were admonished by faith of others – Hebrews 11
- He overcame sorrow, scorn and ridicule, sin among the people, conspiracy of violence and an attempt on his life.

Conclusion

- Is your faith deficient? Look to men like Nehemiah. He teaches us how to live and work by faith, even during distraction!
- Not a Christian? You cannot become a servant of great faith without having faith! Obey now!