

## Discussion Questions & Quotes For April 28 thru May 4, 2024

—*“Like Nehemiah, we Christians live in dark times. We too have to deal with indifferent multitudes. As in his day, there is widespread disloyalty to God's truth today. As then, there is lack of enthusiasm for God's plans and purposes now. Not many Christians want to devote their every waking moment to the task that God has commanded us to do.”*

—**Tom Constable**

—**Nehemiah 2:17–18** Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach." I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build."

—*“Leadership is the art of getting people to do what they ought to do because they want to do it, not because they have to do it.”*

—**an anonymous quote found by Warren Wiersbe**

— “The gracious hand of God rests upon those who, like Nehemiah, are prepared to come to him in humble dependence and prayer.”

—**Alistair Begg**

—*“Nehemiah provides an example of an ordinary person who **stood out & stood up** as a godly leader **who stood against evil** that was holding back the Jewish people from **bringing glory to God**. Examples like this should enlighten, encourage, and energize us to prayerfully engage in the spiritual battle that's holding the Church back from 'doing everything for the glory of God!'”* —**GAD**

—*“The reason why some of us are less than what we might be is not because of the absence of God's power; it's because we just have not focused and realized that God is willing to use an ordinary person like you and me in my office, in my street, in my home, in my school, in my environment.”* —**a summary of a common quote from various pastors**

—“Nehemiah saw more at night than the residents of Jerusalem saw in the daylight, because he saw the potential as well as the problems. That made him the right leader for this occasion.” —**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—*“If following the Lord (consistently trusting & obeying Him) was easy to do, we wouldn't need His Holy Spirit to assist us. But praising the Lord for the blessing we have because His Spirit lives inside of us is part of what's involved in faithfully following Him!”*

## —Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please carefully read Nehemiah 1:1–2:20 in preparation for this week's study & also ask the Lord to use these studies to strengthen our church ministry. These questions focus on the applications noted in the sermon.

—**1} The true content & character of our trust in the Lord is revealed by our prayer lives! We should never underestimate the value of prayer!** Based on Nehemiah's example, how would you explain the importance of prayer to someone who is questioning why we should take time to pray when we could be actively doing something about the problems or concerns we are facing? What does the content of our prayers reveal about our faith?

—**2— One of the most important lessons we all need to learn is the proper margin (balance) between busyness & relaxation.** Nehemiah's motivation & drive lead us to assume that he was a man of action. But when he arrived in Jerusalem, he took some time to rest & reflect on what needed to be done. In our fast-paced world, it's common for us to leave too little margin for proper rest & refreshment. This can lead to many challenges (health issues, poor relationships, unwise decisions, sin & spiritual battles, to name a few). What's the cause for this? Why should we be concerned? What steps should we take to avoid this? How should we hold one another accountable?

—**3— Another essential lesson we all need to learn is how to find the secret to being content with what God has given us, without allowing ourselves to become too comfortable, complacent, accustomed, or accepting of the consequences of sin.** The Jewish people didn't seem to realize how they had become comfortable with their surroundings. How does our sin-saturated society condition us to become tolerant of sin? How has this impacted or potentially harmed the effectiveness of the Church thru-out our culture?

—**4— Am I available & ready to go & do what God lays on my heart? Am I quenching the Spirit of others who are trying to do what God has laid on their hearts?** What personal steps could I take to make sure that I'm aware of the opportunities God has given me to serve Him?

—**5— Am I regularly wearing the Spiritual Armor God has provided to enable us to stand out, stand up, & stand strong against the opposition that comes when we're doing what God has laid on our hearts in God's way?** How has the need for this increased in our culture today? Please notice what 2 Timothy 3:1–17 says about this!