

Nehemiah Recap

Chapters 1-2: Big Need, Big Prayers, Big Plans, Big Ask, Big Response

Chapters 3-6: Building the Wall, Organizing People and Confronting Opposition

Chapters 7-12: Building the People—Repentance, Commitment, Celebration

Chapter 13: After a period of absence, Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to find that the people have drifted away from their devotion to God. A sober reminder to all of us that we will constantly battle drifting in our relationship with God.

I. DRIFT FACTORS: *We can be enticed by...*

A. Negative Influences (13:1-9; 23-31)

A healthy balance in our relationships...

➤ **Reach Out**

- For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10)
- Old Testament Examples: Ruth, Rahab, and the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-3

➤ **Stay Pure**

- Do not be deceived. “Bad company ruins good morals.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- New Testament examples: 2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; Matthew 5:13-26

B. A Love of Money (13:10-14)

C. A False Identity (13:15-22)

The importance of Sabbath rest: Stop doing. Start being.

Key Points:

- God lovingly confronts our sin (Psalm 139:23-24; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 3:12-13)
- Confronting sin is an urgent issue (Romans 8:13)
- The Gospel gives us power over sin (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)

II. STANDING STRONG: *Tethered by...*

A. The Awe of God

Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service. Nehemiah 13:14

B. The Love of God

Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love. Nehemiah 13:22b

C. Consistency in Life

Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites. Nehemiah 13:29

For Further Study

1) Our hearts are prone to wander from God. This theme is addressed throughout the Bible. Look at these passages to see a few examples: The seven churches in **Revelation 2-3**; the parable of the sower in **Mark 4:1-20**; a man names Demas who was strong in his faith for a season, then faded in **Colossians 4:14**; **Philemon 1:24**, and **2 Timothy 4:10**; and King Asa in **2 Chronicles 14-16**. What patterns do you observe in these examples of drift? Which of these evidences do you see in your own heart?

2) Knowing we have a tendency to drift, the Bible also teaches us how to stand strong in our faith and how to resist drift in our lives.

- Bible: **Psalm 1**; **Psalm 119:9, 11**
- Community: **Hebrews 3:12-13**
- Rhythms of Rest and Worship: **Psalm 46:10**

Sermon Discussion Questions

Personally:

- Awe of God: Nehemiah’s passionate life was fueled by his passionate worship of and allegiance to his great and awesome God. This passion unleashed Nehemiah to run hard after big things, difficult things, and to stand strong in the face of opposition (**Nehemiah 1:5-11**; **Nehemiah 4:14**).
- The Joy of the Lord is our Strength (**Nehemiah 8:13**): A commitment to God’s word and His ways, coupled with an honest confession of our own sins, leads us to forgiveness and restores our relationship with God. God’s joy is drawing sinful people into an intimate relationship with Himself. This is our hope and our confidence in this life!

Corporately:

- Serving and Sacrificing Together: Throughout the book of Nehemiah we see names of people, loved and created by God, serving together, and sacrificing time and resources together. And the wall was built in 52 days! God loves to unite His people around a cause and use them to do powerful things.
- Seeking God Together: In chapters 8-13, we see God’s people studying His Word together, confessing sin together, and celebrating God’s forgiveness together.

“Hands on the Wall”

For us, the task at hand is a focus on our mission and vision to extend the hope and healing power of the Gospel together for the good of our neighbors and our world. We love God, love each other, and love our city.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- **Community Groups:** To find one in your area, contact John at jmchale@parkviewchurch.org
- **Parkview Membership:** The next class begins Sunday, April 30 at 11AM. Register on the Events page at parkviewchurch.org
- **Community Kids Days:** Your Community Group can host one in your neighborhood. Contact Nate at nmcglumphry@parkviewchurch.org
- **Baptism:** The next class is April 23 with baptisms taking place on April 30. Contact John at jmchale@parkviewchurch.org
- **Child Dedication:** The class will be held on Sunday, May 7 with dedications taking place on Sunday, May 14. Contact Katelyn at krodman@parkviewchurch.org
- **Summer Children’s Events:** For elementary students. SpringHill, June 5-10; and High Power Soccer Camp, July 10-14. Register on the Events page at parkviewchurch.org

UPCOMING SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Easter:** Fill out a card from the seat pocket, or visit parkviewchurch.org/serve
- **Summer Children’s Ministry:** Volunteers are needed to serve on Sunday mornings over the summer. Contact Katelyn at krodman@parkviewchurch.org
- **Sudan Party:** Friday, June 30, 8PM-1AM. Volunteers are needed to assist with nursery, K-6, JH/SH, and adults. Contact Paul at parkviewgw@gmail.com
- **Loaner Car:** The Munstermans, Parkview global workers in Egypt, will be working in Iowa City this summer and will need a loaner car from mid-May to mid-August. Contact Paul at parkviewgw@gmail.com

ONGOING SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

- **First Impressions:** Assist with parking, greeting, and the Connect Center on Sunday mornings. Contact John at jmchale@parkviewchurch.org
- **S.A.F.E. Ministry:** Volunteers are needed to provide child care for foster and pre-adoptive families each month. The next event is Friday, April 7. Contact Laura at lbroffitt@yahoo.com
- **Children’s Ministry:** Volunteers are needed to serve on Sunday mornings. Contact Katelyn at krodman@parkviewchurch.org
- **Church Leadership:** Elder, deacon, deaconess, or women’s ministry team. Sign up at the Connect Center TODAY.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Faith Academy Banquet:** Plan to attend the banquet this Saturday, April 1 to support Faith Academy. Sign up in the foyer TODAY to reserve your seat.
- **Faith Academy at SpringHill:** Support our scholars in attending the day camp this summer. Give at parkviewchurch.org/give
- **Global Worker Partnership Fund:** Give at parkviewchurch.org/give
- **Benevolence:** Give at parkviewchurch.org/give
- **Church Growth Opportunities:** Give at parkviewchurch.org/give

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Easter:** Pray for our members, attendee, and visitors during the worship services. Fill out a card from the seat pocket, or visit parkviewchurch.org/serve
- **Central African Republic Trip:** April 10-24. Please pray for the team.
- **Simply Pray:** Thursdays at 11:30AM in the Library.
- **Sunday Mornings:** Ministry Leaders are available at the front of the Worship Center after every worship service to pray with you.