

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

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at www.newdaynw.com/sermons*

Read Nehemiah 2:1-10

Are you more of a "glass half full" or "glass half empty" person? When you read the way Nehemiah inspects the wall and describes it afterwards, do you see him as more of a pessimist or optimist?

Nehemiah laid much of the groundwork for the repairs in secret, hidden from the view of the people. Have you ever had a time when you weren't seeing God's work, only to learn later that he was operating behind the scenes? What does it mean that our life is "hidden" with Christ (Col. 3:3)?

The story of Nehemiah parallels Christ's parable in Luke 14:28-30. What significance does this idea of "counting the cost" have to do with us?

In verse 17, Nehemiah described the situation with the words "trouble" and "disgrace." Compare this to where we find the word trouble in different verses (such as Psalm 27:5, Psalm 46:1 and Nahum 1:7). Then look at other verses using the word disgrace (such as Psalm 44:15, Proverbs 11:2 and Hebrews 13:3). Do you see any differences? Which word do you relate to more?

Nehemiah's opponents belittled the people and accused them of false motives. Nehemiah told them they had no place at the table (v. 20). What messages/bad voices of the accuser feel like they have a place at your table right now? Talk to God about them and reflect on Revelation 12:10.