



PART 4: TROUBLE BEHIND THE WALLS

Sermon Notes

Text: Nehemiah 5:1-19

Intro:

It is possible to have it all together in our public life, while having piles of rubble in our private life that threaten to ruin everything.

“Managers do things right. Leaders do the right thing.” ~Warren Bennis

Trouble Behind the Walls of Jerusalem:

Chapter 5 of Nehemiah reveals trouble behind the walls that threatens to undo everything that was accomplished in the construction project.

It is tempting to think that sin is merely an external issues - out “there.” But sin is something that begins on the inside.

Facing an internal threat:

Nehemiah 5:1-5

Those who sacrificed personal time and resources to help in the construction project were taken advantage of by my local lenders.

Galatians 6:10

The Fear of God

Nehemiah 5:9

www.betheltab.ca

The fear of God is not the same as fear of spiders, or heights or other phobias. It's a healthy reverence for a God who is incredibly holy, powerful and majestic.

“To fear the Lord is to be overwhelmed with wonder before the greatness of God and his love. It means that, because of his bright holiness and magnificent love, you find him fearfully beautiful.” ~Tim Keller

Proverbs 9:10

“What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or for restoration.”
~Greg Beale

It is not truly the fear of God unless it motivates us to do what we'd never do otherwise.

Nehemiah 1:1

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Conclusion:

1 John 4:16-18

Psalm 34:7

Brick #4: The fear of God saves us from what we fear most

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Can you think of some contemporary examples of people whose lives looked great on the outside, but hidden personal struggles became their downfall? What lessons can be learned from these examples?
2. Recap the Sunday sermon. What intrigued you? Perplexed you? What did you learn? What questions remain?

Study & Discussion:

1. The Israelites may have been tempted to think that all of their problems were outside the walls, but in reality the most dangerous problems may have been inside. The same principle is true for sin. Sometimes we think sin is “out there,” but the greatest dangers come from within. Read Mark 7:14-23 & Luke 6:43-45. What do these passages tell us about what’s inside our “walls”? How can we combat these dangers? What other scriptures come to mind that speak of dealing with internal sins and issues of the heart?
2. Warren Bennis said, “Managers do things right. Leaders do the right thing.” What does he mean by that? What’s the difference between doing things right, and doing the right thing? What kinds of situations arise that require us to make a decision between these two options?
3. How do you define the “fear of God”? Contrast the fear of God with the fear John talks about in 1 John 4:16-18. What is this fear? How is this fear combatted?

Application:

1. What situation in your life requires you to change your actions from doing things right to doing the right thing? How will you make that happen?

Prayer:

1. Pray for a healthy fear of God, and freedom from the fear of death.
2. Other Requests
 -
 -
 -
 -