

**TITLE/BIG IDEA:****TEXT:** Nehemiah 7:1-7**SET UP CONTEXT OF NEHEMIAH 1-6 AND SERIES BIG IDEA****LOOK AT THE TEXT — V. 1****• BUTTON UP THE WORK SO EXTENSIVE WORK CAN CONTINUE**

- Nehemiah here is seeing his work through...wall built, gates, etc.
- And now we're beginning to understand in the narrative Nehemiah's work was not only about rebuilding the walls, but there is purpose behind the rebuilding of this city that wasn't yet clear...
- Illustration of peaks behind the peaks/false summits
- This peak behind the peak for Nehemiah is bigger, more humbling, more world-history shaping than anyone imagined...

**• V.2 — THEREFORE NEHEMIAH NEEDS TO DELEGATE LEADERSHIP**

- More people are coming in...more structures are being built...more enemies are revealing themselves...
- So, who did Nehemiah look for and appoint? Two men, first mentioned in Chapter 1, known for faithfulness and Fear of the Lord...not hirelings...not men who's souls don't stir up and burn within them on the Word of God...
- Men who are faithful to God are faithful to one another...to the degree that we walk out and on one another, we see our true hearts and we see where our love for God is frigid and asleep at the wheel.

**• V. 3 — THE NEW CIRCLE OF LEADERSHIP IS UNDER BOTH RESTRICTIONS AND CONSTRUCTIONS**

- **RESTRICTIONS** — Nehemiah has set H&H over the city but they are still under authority...no man or woman deserves authority who cannot show they can live, even thrive, under authority. Humility and teachability are critical to your leadership...if you can't be taught, rebuked, corrected, shifted you have very little business leading anyone but you. *Fact is...look around...it's not likely anyone is itching to learn from you...*
- **CONSTRUCTIONS** — As a new city, new church, new business, new gov. is establishing itself it must keep watch over its gates...so that no one is allowed to enter in with ulterior motive and intent...early stage churches and early stage cities share this in common...**VULNERABILITY**
  - We're a tiny, new little church and the gates around leadership are tight. Yet, they are transparent and honest, gentle and teachable, firm and founded on the Bible where we see the Full Counsel of God made clear.

**• V-4 THE REASON FOR THIS IS PRESERVATION AND MULTIPLICATION**

- **"City wide and large and no homes rebuilt..."** If Nehemiah is hasty about the men he appoints to lead the City of Jerusalem, he risks the City and by risking the City He risks the people...and by risking the people...He risks the glory of God because there would be no place and no security for the people to find their lives wrapped up in the Story that God is writing.
- Nehemiah knows there are future people coming...people he doesn't know and may never will...but they're homes are here in Jerusalem waiting to be built up

**• LIKE IN JERUSALEM, GOD IS WRITING A STORY HERE THAT DISPLAYS HIS GLORY IN LIVING TEMPLES...YOU AND I**

- There are people needing Gospel-Renewal who have not yet found us...we've not yet found them...what if we lived with that mentality??? "I'm on the hunt for people who need to be refreshed?" Give me one person, Lord?!

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