

Facing Obstacles?



How are you dealing
with your obstacles?

**Working towards a better life with
the help of God**

Obstacles

- In this week's lesson, we continue our look at the Bible character of Nehemiah. On his way to achieving something great, Nehemiah had to confront obstacles which stood between him and that which he wanted to accomplish. His story demonstrates that whenever we want to achieve something great, that we will have to overcome difficulties along the way. May we deal with our obstacles as Nehemiah did...

Recap of Last Week

- Jesus asks the man who had been an invalid for 38 years, "Do you want to get well?" Later, He tells the man, "Pick up your mat and walk!" *How bad do you want to get well?*
- Nehemiah had a big goal. He wanted to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that his people could be restored. After weeping, Nehemiah fasted and prayed, confessed sin, set a goal, chose a time, asked God for favor and success and then he sought the help of others. *We, too, should follow similar steps as we embark upon our goals in life.*
- Nehemiah had a vision that Jerusalem would one day be safe and stable again. *What is your vision for your life?*

Nehemiah

Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem



Nehemiah's Story

- In Chapter One of Nehemiah, he gets bad news. His beloved country has been attacked. His countrymen have been disgraced and are in trouble. Nehemiah weeps and seeks help from God.
- In Chapter Two, Nehemiah asks King Artaxerxes if he can go to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall. Permission is granted by the King.
- Nehemiah inspects the walls and realizes how big of a task it will be to rebuild them. He then seeks help from others.
- Nehemiah 2: 17-20
 - **They mocked and ridiculed Nehemiah because they didn't believe he could accomplish his goal.**

Life Lesson:

Whenever you have a big goal or dream, there will be naysayers who will doubt that you can do it.

The Impossible becomes **Possible**

- Nehemiah 3: 1-4
 - Notice that the work to rebuild the wall is done in sections or pieces. This is similar to how we should look at the process of rebuilding our lives.
Take it one step, one section, one piece at a time.

Nehemiah's Opposition

- Nehemiah 4: 1-6
 - Sanballat and Tobiah do not want Nehemiah to reach his goal. Even though rebuilding the wall is a noble goal, there is still opposition. **You will face hurdles and opposition as you attempt to accomplish things in your life. Sometimes the opposition is a person; sometimes, it's a situation; and sometimes it's the Enemy.**

How do you respond when you hit an obstacle on the way to achieving your goal?

How have you handled the obstacles you have been faced with in your life?
Nehemiah handles his obstacles by continuing his work.

In response to the opposition,
Nehemiah prayed.

Despite the obstacles, Nehemiah and
his builders continued to work.

They worked with all their heart.

**As you look at your goals, are you
giving it everything you've got?**

Overcoming Obstacles

- Nehemiah 4: 7-11, 4: 16-23
 - The opposition continues to be a thorn in Nehemiah's side. They will stop at nothing to end his dream of rebuilding the wall.
 - **The answer to overcoming obstacles is to work even harder.**
- Nehemiah 6: 1-4
 - Despite numerous attempts to cut off his progress, Nehemiah refuses to give in. He continues his "great work" (or great project).

Reaching His Goal

- Nehemiah 6: 15-16
 - Nehemiah accomplished his great work with the help of God. **We, too, can do that which seems impossible when we have God on our side.**
 - **Nehemiah had faith, courage, drive, determination, discipline, dedication, tenacity and vision.** If we are going to accomplish our goals, we must have those qualities too.

Our upcoming lessons...

- We will begin looking at what the Bible says about some of the specific goals you may have...
- **What does the Bible say about...**
 - Building a stronger relationship with God?
 - Having better relationships with family, friends and acquaintances?
 - Elevating one's position?
 - Getting rid of bad habits?
 - Finances?
 - Physical and Emotional Health?
- Join us as we work towards a better life together