



'My Response' Sermon Series

Divine Lessons from the Restoration Era – Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

The EXTRA MILE BLESSINGS

| Mount Zion Church | Sunday Service | 8 August 2021 |

INTRO:

While everyone **being busy** with their plans and ideas to achieve more gains in the new open land of Jerusalem, Nehemiah did **the opposite thing!** And again this is not only about the history to remember in the restoration era, instead, this is **a great reminder** for believers at the end times when perilous times will come.

There will be lots of reasons to always put our needs in the first place of everything, but Jesus asked His disciples to do **the extra mile**, do something more than ordinary people would normally do, take the extra step than people in general will do.

Jesus said: “And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two *Mat.5:41.*”

People like to say that the extra mile is never crowded,

there are no traffic jams along the extra mile. And indeed, only the power of God that will **enable** and **empower** believers to walk the extra mile with **a divine purpose**.

Let's prepare ourselves to learn from the life story of Nehemiah and be ready to give a good response for what the Holy Spirit will quicken in our heart.

DISTINGUISHABLE!



DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD,
BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND,
THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD,
WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.
ROMANS 12:2 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

Because of the fear of God, Nehemiah decided not to go with **the flow!**

Who created the flow in your life? Who had influenced you a lot so far? Which trendsetter you always let to influence your life most? Who define the decision of your life?

While ***the former governors*** (it is clearly multiple, not singular) had done that things for years, Nehemiah chose to be anti-mainstream, and it happened because of the fear of God!

This is all about the attitude of believers in the real life. Do we realise that we spend almost **1/3 of our time** in the market place? Believers must aware that the market place is **the best mission field** for every believers. And the best strategy to share our faith with others is to **be distinguishable** because of the will of God, and not just

easily go with the flow!

Believers are also called to be the anti-mainstream for the sake of the name of Jesus!

Romans 12:2 NKJV

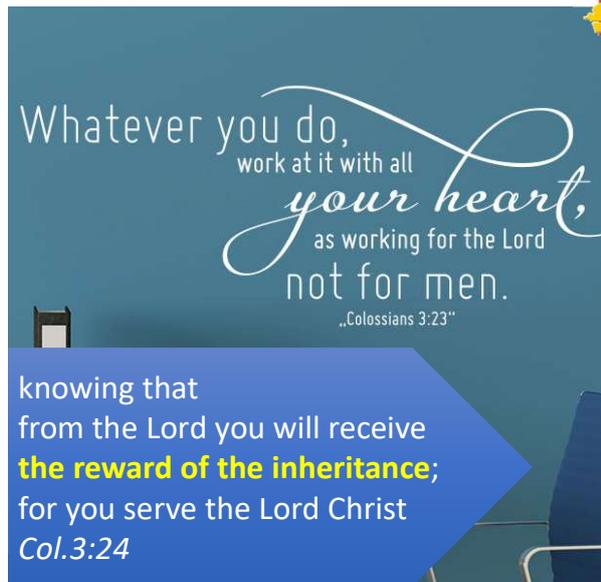
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

How would you response to that? Let's be distinguishable and be brave not to go with the flow.

WORK WITH HEART

NEHEMIAH 5

¹⁶ Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy (*NIV: acquire*) any land. All my servants *were* gathered there for the work.



Nehemiah, together with the people under his responsibility, even created **a new culture of work**. They transformed and countered the bad work habit in Jerusalem that already happened for years!

Normally, the governors of Jerusalem allowed to acquire any land for their benefit. But what happened with Nehemiah was different. He decided not to acquire any land. He decided to take the extra mile! And again it was for the sake of God!

He worked so hard, yet he did not exploit every advantages that he can use.

Apostle Paul told believers: And whatever you do, **do it heartily** (*NIV: work at it with all your heart*), as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive **the reward of the inheritance**; for you serve the Lord Christ *Col.3:23-24*.

This is the true concept for believers when doing their job here in the earth. **Whatever** you do, not only the work inside the church, let's do it with all our heart, not only because of the reward that we will get from our employer, but believers must always remember that there is a reward of the inheritance that is **innumerable, countless!**



WORK WITH COMPASSION

NEHEMIAH 5

¹⁷ And at my table *were* 150 Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. ¹⁸ Now *that* which was prepared daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this **I did not demand the governor's provisions**, because the bondage was heavy on this people.

GALATIANS 5 ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled **in one word**, *even* in this: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! ¹⁶ I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

BE CONTENT

Nehemiah explained that the people already prepared the daily need to run and support the government and that was enough. He decided to not demand anything else! Nehemiah really worked with compassion because the bondage was already heavy on the people of Israel. That was called **compassion!**

Nehemiah did not want to take advantage with his position and demanded all things that he actually deserved to have. Yes Nehemiah absolutely had those rights, he was entitled to the provision as the governor, but he decided not to touch that entitlement because he fully aware that there would be other people that blessed with his action.

This is all about **contentment!**

Proverbs told us: The leech has two daughters—Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied,

Four never say, “Enough!”: The grave, the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied with water—and the fire never says, “Enough!” **Pro.30:15-16**

Without contentment, anyone will **bite** and **devour** one another! And Paul warned: “Beware! Lest you be consumed by one another.”

Even though people around us bite and devour one another, still apostle Paul wrote: Walk in the Spirit! And you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

The lust of the flesh will never say enough. The lust of the flesh will always want to bite and devour one another. But apostle Paul encouraged believers to always remember that believers have a heavenly power in Christ, a power that fulfil the Law, a power that surpass the Law, and it is the Law of God’s love, the greatest commandment. And the important key to do that is **walk in the Spirit**.



TO GIVE or TO RECEIVE

ACTS 20

³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by labouring like this, that you must **support the weak**. And remember **the words of the Lord Jesus**, that He said, 'It is **more blessed to give** than to receive.' ”



It is always happy to receive something, but Jesus said that it is **more blessed to give** than to receive!

The disciples of Jesus Christ must **think differently** and not be the opportunistic (exploiting immediate opportunities, taking advantage of opportunities as they arise), or in another word egocentric, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-centred.

Nehemiah truly gave us a divine example **to give** according to what he had *2Cor.8:12*, and not according to what he did not have.

HE KNOWS! AND HE ALWAYS KNOW

NEHEMIAH 5

¹⁹ **Remember me, my God,** for good, *according to* all that I have done for this people.

REVELATION 14

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"

"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours, and **their works follow them.**"



Rest assured that whatever we do, **God knows** and **He always know!**

Any extra mile that we took for the sake of God is carefully recorded and is completely remembered by God. At the whole book of Nehemiah, we can find about 6 times Nehemiah wrote the same thing: "Remember me, my God." We can understand how close and how intimate the relationship between Nehemiah and God, so every single thing that he did, he knew for sure that God knew about it and God would never forget it!



A BIG CHALLENGE TO TAKE THE EXTRA MILE A T T H E E N D T I M E S

2TIMOTHY 3 – PERILOUS TIMES

2TIMOTHY 3 – GROW WORSE & WORSE

2TIMOTHY 3 – CONTINUE IN WISDOM

2TIMOTHY 3 – BE THE MAN OF GOD

¹⁶ **All Scripture** *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

¹⁷ that **the man of God** may be **complete**, thoroughly equipped for every good work.





GOD BLESS YOU!

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK WITH JESUS

See You Next Sunday!

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