

**Introduction:**

**Our Model - Nehemiah**

Chapter	4	5	6	7	8
Cause of Adversity	Obedience	Disobedience	Personal Attack	<b>Circumstances</b>	God's Discipline
N.T. Parallel	1 Peter 4:12-19	Galatians 6:7-8	Ephesians 6:10-12	<b>Luke 13:1-5</b>	Hebrews 12:5-11
Typical Response	Give up	Conform	Fear	<b>Lose Heart</b>	Ignore
Nehemiah's Response	Pray/Prepare	Confront	Fight	<b>Look for Plan B</b>	Submit
God's Deliverance	Enemies Thwarted	Repentance & Unity	Protection	<b>A New Game-plan</b>	Revival
Timeless Truth	"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13				
Motto	"I can't, He never said I could; He can, He always said He would."				

**Understanding Nehemiah's difficult circumstances:**

- Jewish History – 70 years in exile for idolatry
- Zerubbabel returns and rebuilds the Temple – 538 BC
- Ezra returns to rebuild the people – 457 BC
- Nehemiah returns to rebuild the wall – 445 BC
- The wall is done . . . Now what?

**Six difficult circumstances Nehemiah faced?**

Nehemiah 7:1 - 4

1. Security Issues – An unsafe environment
2. People Issues – Not enough to fill the city
3. Housing Issues – None available
4. Financial Issues – Lack of funds for the work
5. Momentum Issues – Almost 100 years of futility

**How did Nehemiah respond to his circumstances?**

- He \_\_\_\_\_ . Nehemiah 7:1
- He \_\_\_\_\_ . Nehemiah 7:2-3
- He \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Nehemiah 7:4-5
- He \_\_\_\_\_ the right questions. Nehemiah 7:6-69
  - Who are we?
  - How did we get here?
  - What do we have, not what do we lack?
  - What are we called to do?
- He \_\_\_\_\_ commitment through generosity. Nehemiah 7:70-72

**What can we learn from Nehemiah as we face our difficult circumstances?**

Rebuilding The Wall	Pivot	Rebuilding The People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walls</li> <li>• Work</li> <li>• Physical</li> <li>• External</li> </ul>	<b>G E N E A L O G Y</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word</li> <li>• Worship</li> <li>• Spiritual</li> <li>• Internal</li> </ul>
1                      6	7	8                      13

1. **The Principle of Perspective:** *Like Nehemiah*, we must not confuse our \_\_\_\_\_ (activities and projects) with our “goals” (desired end results).

2. **The Principle of Priority:** *Like Nehemiah*, we must make \_\_\_\_\_ our passion.

3. **The Principle of Evaluation:** *Like Nehemiah*, we must make “faithfulness to our \_\_\_\_\_” the measure of our success.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the most difficult circumstance you (or someone you love) is facing?
2. What practical things from Nehemiah's example might help you / them deal positively with this challenge?
3. Which of the "3 Timeless Principles" most apply to your difficult circumstance?
4. How does God use difficult circumstances to renew our dependency on Him and/or redirect our lives and relationships?