

Sunday Morning Sermon

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014- Bridgeport Church of Christ (CT)

*Sermon Topic: Is Your Mind on the Master's Plan?*

*Sermon Text: Nehemiah 4:1-6*

- 1) We are a people that need personal restoration. 2) We meet people who need personal restoration. 3) We live in an area that needs collective restoration. When you put these three things you get The Church that Jesus Died For and The Purpose for His People.

-Read Nehemiah 4:6

-Hebrew Word for "Mind" in Nehemiah 4:6?

In the Old Testament, the word "mind" was translated from three Hebrew words: *reins*, *kidneys* and *spirit*. The first two words, reins and kidneys, conjure up very graphic pictures of the importance and the significance of what our minds are.

**Reins-** What do reins do? Reins control, lead and direct action. Reins guide and make a horse do what the rider wants. Without reins, the horse will go where he wants! Our minds are just like "reins": They can guide and direct our lives (our souls) in a straight and Godly manner; or conversely, if we have quenched God's Spirit, then our minds will guide our lives in a crooked and ungodly manner.

**Kidneys-** What do kidneys do? Kidneys have two critical functions: 1) They filter out and eliminate all the debris, wastes and filth from our blood; and 2) they control and regulate the amount of blood-flow into our bodies. If we are believers, then our minds are what filter out the filth in our lives (our hurts, resentments, lack of forgiveness, etc.), and our minds are what regulate and control whose life (whose blood) will be lived in our souls - God's or our own.<sup>5</sup>

**Spirit-** the "life source," the "energy source," or the "power source" of our lives. Our spirit resides at the core of our being. It is what creates the thoughts of our hearts and it is what produces them as actions in our lives.

1. Nehemiah Thought
  - a. Compassion

1. It was what Nehemiah heard about these Walls and the City of the Great King that brought Him to weep for his people
  - b. Vision
    - i. After inquiring about Jerusalem, showing compassion for Jerusalem, weeping for Jerusalem, inquiring about going to build the walls of Jerusalem back up; Nehemiah went to scope out Jerusalem.
    - ii. He went to get a visual of what it would take to build up the Jerusalem walls again.
    - iii. Sometimes, we need to get a visual before we can accomplish our vision.
  - c. Decision
    - i. There are a whole lot of things that we see a need in and we think about them, even while in our beds at night and then we wake up to those same thoughts in the morning, but we never bring ourselves to an action point.  
**ii. Nehemiah Felt the Need, Saw How to Fulfill the Need and Acted Upon That Vision!!!**
2. Nehemiah and the People Fought
  - a. Fought The Fight of Fear from the Opposition
  - b. Fought The Fight of Fear from the Opposition
    - i. Nehemiah was a bold leader. He stood tall, stood firm on his faith in God and instilled faith in the people.
    - ii. Throughout this great story, these enemies were relentless. They mocked, they ridiculed, they tried to humiliate and tried to destroy (**Sounds like something Christians know something about!!!**) Jesus, our bold and fearless leader experienced this type of treatment on his way to the cross for you and I.
  - c. Fought The Good Fight of Faith That They Could Rebuild These Walls
    - i. In our scripture text verse (4:6), despite opposition from the enemy, the walls were finished to half its height.
    - ii. We have to learn to stop allowing our Sanballat's, our Tobiah's and our Geshem's to hinder us from being a progressive Church. Satan wants us to be worried about his tactics. That tricky devil wants us to doubt that God is able.
3. Nehemiah Sought (**Notice the order of these thoughts**)

- a. With his contemporary Ezra, To Restore the Knowledge of the Word of God.
- b. To Restore The Physical Lives of the Nation of Israel
- c. To Restore The Spiritual Lives of the People, Israel

Final Thoughts:

- Do you have a mind to work?
- Do you have compassion for the visual for the world of sin you see?
- What are you doing to act upon your visual?

**The Lord will see us through all of the opposition and the challenges of rebuilding our lives, as we strive to help rebuild the lives of others, but we must commit to serving Him no matter what the cost.**

**Invitation**