



January 8, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 1:1-11 | “Broken and Burdened”

Sermon Application Review from Psalm 133

How did you humbly unite with another believer?

How did you adopt a global perspective?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 1:1–11

Ezra 9:5–15

Exodus 32:30–33

Daniel 9:4–19

Matthew 7:7–8

Luke 11:1–13; 18:1–8

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Study Questions

1. What area of your life feels broken right now? How have you given your brokenness to the Lord? With whom have you shared your brokenness? How has this person walked with you amidst your pain?
2. How concerned are you about the welfare of CBC (1:2–3)? In what ways do you act on your concern? How do you express concern for the progress of the regional, national, and global church? Are you regularly praying for spiritual renewal among God’s people? If not, what keeps you from doing so? How can you cultivate a greater burden for the health of the church?
3. In what ways do you regularly confess your personal and family sins and humbly identify with the corporate sins of CBC (1:4)? How does your level of concern cause you grief and motivate you to seek the Lord? Is prayer your first or last resort? What steps will you take this week to grow in your prayer life?
4. How much do you understand God’s character and attributes (1:5–10)? How can this knowledge influence your prayer life? What is on your list of impossible prayer requests (1:8–10)? What makes it difficult to persevere? Read Luke 18:1–8. How have you learned to pray God’s Word and His promises?
5. In what ways do you see your identity as a “servant” of God (1:10–11)? How are you consciously serving your employer, fellow employees, church, family, and friends? How do you use your position or role to glorify God? What would you like to do differently in this year?

Recommended Reading

Ronald Dunn, *Don’t Just Stand There, Pray Something* (Thomas Nelson, 1991)

Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer* (Whitaker House, 1981)

J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer* (Moody, 1967)



January 15, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 2:1-20 | "It's Crunch Time!"

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 1

What concerns turned into passions for you (1:3–4)?
In what ways did you reorient your prayers (1:5–11)?
How did you intentionally serve others (1:11)?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 2:1–20
Psalm 127:1
Psalm 46:1; 72:12
Psalm 56:3–4
Proverbs 16:14
Romans 5:3–5
James 1:2–4

Study Questions

1. When was the last time you had to wait for God to answer a prayer? How did you successfully wait upon the Lord? Read Isaiah 40:28–31 and Hebrews 6:12. What has God put into your heart to do? How are you willing to take risks to be used for God's purposes? Are you seizing every opportunity to influence others in a positive way? How does God want to use you right where you are?
2. When have you experienced fear like Nehemiah? How did you respond? What did you learn from this experience? What are you afraid of right now? Does this fear have you preoccupied or paralyzed? What can you do now to prepare to act, speak, or go when the Lord opens a door?
3. What does God's providence mean to you? In what ways do you consider your present job and various trials as opportunities for divine appointments? Do you sense that you are in the center of God's will? How are you growing in your trust of Him? How are you using your spiritual gift(s) to advance His kingdom purposes?
4. How should you respond to criticism from others? What guidelines can help you discern when to be diplomatic and when to confront boldly? (Check out Jesus' various interactions with people in this regard.) How can you guard yourself from disappointment and cynicism when things don't go well in your service for God? How can you keep an optimistic and joyful attitude?
5. Where is God calling you to honestly and humbly inspect the walls of your life (e.g., relationship with the Lord, friends, marriage, parenting, work)? Where might repentance and growth be needed? How can you ensure that nothing is holding you back from spiritual intimacy and impact? Who can help you recognize areas that need to change in your life? Will you invite this person to speak freely into your life?

Recommended Reading

Jason K. Allen, *Turnaround: The Remarkable Story of an Institutional Transformation and the 10 Essential Principles and Practices that Made It Happen* (B&H, 2022)
J. I. Packer & Carolyn Nystrom, *God's Will: Finding Guidance for Everyday Decisions* (Baker, 2008)
Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will* (Moody, 2009)



January 22, 2023 | Pastor Tanner Huss
Nehemiah 3:1-32 | “Repairing and Rebuilding”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 2

How did you give your fears to God this past week?
How did you see evidence of God’s hand in your life?
How did God show up in a “crunch time” moment?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 3:1–32
Matthew 5:13–16; 28:18–20
Romans 12:3–8
1 Corinthians 12:12–25
Ephesians 2:14–22
Ephesians 4:11–16
1 Peter 2:4–9

Study Questions

1. After inspecting the walls, Nehemiah used his experience of God’s grace to influence and inspire the people. In what sphere (e.g., home, work, neighborhood, friends, etc.) is God calling you to utilize your influence? How might you draw attention to God’s goodness and grace? How can you motivate God’s people to fulfill their ministry? Read John 4:34; 19:30; Colossians 4:17; and 2 Timothy 4:5–8.
2. How can you know where in God’s purposes you ought to serve? Since no believer can do it all, how can you know when it’s okay to say “no” to a ministry opportunity? Are you presently doing your part in serving your church? Do you recognize that when you don’t do your share it places excessive burdens on others? When your earthly life is done, what significant ministry projects will you have completed with your fellow brethren?
3. As a leader, Nehemiah assigned responsibility for the wall’s construction to those who did the work. Consider how this principle of delegated responsibility might apply in business, in the church, and in your home. Do you work joyfully and with all your strength? Do you work for God’s pleasure? Read 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17, 23?
4. Is there a proper place for healthy competition among believers? Give biblical support. When is it out of balance? Should we teach our kids more about cooperation instead of competition? Since we’re all working for the same goal of honoring Christ, how can you strive to be the best servant you can be while selflessly encouraging others in their service?
5. In light of Nehemiah 3, reflect on Ephesians 4:3–5, 11–13. How can the church achieve unity while encouraging diversity and individual gifts? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–26. Do you look for ways to express appreciation to those parts of the body that you don’t normally serve in? How can you increase my awareness and gratitude for those servants and ministries that you don’t keep tabs on?

Recommended Reading

Bryan Chapell, *Grace at Work: Redeeming the Grind and the Glory of Your Job* (Crossway, 2022)
Scott Pace & Shane Pruitt, *Calling Out the Called: Discipling Those Called to Ministry Leadership* (B&H, 2022)



January 29, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 4:1-23 | “Overcoming Opposition”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 3

How did you get involved in God’s work at CBC?

How did you experience unity and comraderies in your ministry service?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 4:1–23

Psalm 127:1–2

Psalm 139:21–22

Psalm 20:1–9

2 Chronicles 14:11; 32:7–8

2 Corinthians 4:7; 12:9

Ephesians 6:10–12

Study Questions

1. Why do people engage in ridicule? What do they hope to achieve? When are you most vulnerable to scorn? What particular barbs tend to discourage you? Have you ever tried to accomplish a task while others made fun of you and claimed you would never finish? What was your response? Did you give up or did their taunts make you push harder toward your goal? How can you encourage a discouraged group of people in your church?
2. How seriously do you take spiritual warfare? Where do you see Satan unleashing anger today? What type of criticism have you faced for attempting great things for God? What is God doing in your midst to show He is at work and is frustrating Satan? How do you typically respond when you face opposition to your faith? Read Ephesians 6:10–19.
3. What can we learn from Nehemiah’s prayer in 4:4–6? Is this the type of prayer we should pray today? If so, when and how? What is the successful balance between praying and working? When are you tempted to pray and never step forward in action? When are you guilty of working to the exclusion of prayer? In what specific way(s) is God calling you to step up in prayer and service?
4. How can you determine the difference between healthy realism that acknowledges problems and unhealthy negativism? How was Nehemiah both a realist and an optimist? In what specific ways did he motivate Judah? How can your view of God’s power and faithfulness compel other believers to action? How will you grow in your understanding of God’s character and attributes this year?
5. God seems to be a great fan of underdogs. Read Judges 7:2; 1 Samuel 14:6; 2 Chronicles 14:11; 32:7–8; Psalm 20:7; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 12:9. Why does God tend to use underdogs? Is CBC characterized by people who are united together with a mind to work? How do you respond when faced with tasks that seem overwhelming? How can God use you to help others work more passionately and effectively?

Recommended Reading

John Stott, *Christ in Conflict: Lessons from Jesus and His Controversies* (IVP, 2013)

Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Conflict Resolution: A Guide for Turbulent Times* (B&H, 2021)

Clinton E. Arnold, *3 Questions about Spiritual Warfare* (Baker, 1997)



February 5, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 5:1-19 | “People Problems Within”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 4

How did you turn to God in prayer amid opposition?

How did you balance the tension between prayer and planning?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 5:1–19

Psalms 55:12–14

Galatians 6:9–10

Matthew 22:37–40

Romans 13:8–10

James 2:14–17

1 Timothy 6:17–19

Study Questions

1. How can you sympathize with people who are discouraged or oppressed (5:1–5)? In what ways might you be guilty of taking advantage of others? What specifically are you doing to address the needs of those around you? How do you express concern, care, and love for God’s people? When was the last time you truly sympathized or empathized with a CBC sister or brother? How did your compassion affect the relationship?
2. How can you confront those who have violated God’s standards in a gracious, yet firm manner (5:6–13)? What price do God’s people pay when they (or their leaders) fail to confront sin? What is the relationship between repentance, restitution, and revival? Why is revival so closely tied to the integrity of our relationships? How do internal, relational problems present a greater challenge to revival than external problems?
3. How can you foster a healthy fear of God (5:9, 15)? How can you avoid using power or position to further your own agenda? How can you avoid drawing unnecessary attention to yourself? Who in your life provides a model of relational integrity? What have you learned from this leader? What areas of your life are holding you back from being such a leader? Will you ask the Holy Spirit to transform this area?
4. When does “sharing a concern” cross the line into gossip? How can we avoid this? How can we discern when to drop a matter and when to seek resolution with the person? When is it right to leave a church? When is it wrong? What process should you follow before leaving a church? How can you honor the leadership and your fellow members?
5. Who are the spiritually and financially needy in your life? Are there practical ways to invest in their spiritual growth or assist with their finances? How might the Lord be calling you to build unity in the church through generosity? What might that look like practically?

Recommended Reading

Randy Alcorn, *Managing God’s Money: A Biblical Guide* (Tyndale, 2011)

Randy Alcorn, *Giving Is the Good Life: The Unexpected Path to Purpose and Joy* (Compassion, 2019)

Duane Litfin, *Word versus Deed: Resetting the Scales to a Biblical Balance* (Crossway, 2012)

Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*: (Moody, 2014)



February 12, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 6:1-19 | “The Devil Is in the Distractions”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 5

What *one* global cause did you adopt?

How did you individually remember others in need?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 6:1–19

Psalms 18:2, 29–32, 39

Psalms 119:97–104

James 1:5–8

Proverbs 2:1–9

Psalms 28:7–8; 29:11; 46:1

Psalms 109:1–4

Study Questions

1. When have you dealt with people spreading rumors about you? What happened? How did you work through this? How can you avoid taking yourself too seriously? What should you do if falsely accused? Read 2 Samuel 16:1–14. How can you know when to ignore opposition and when to deal with it?
2. How can you stay focused on the “better” thing instead of being distracted by a potentially “good” thing? When have you been tempted to settle for second best or good enough? How can you be confident that you are doing what God wants you to do? In what ways will this release you from trying to please others? What criteria do you use to determine whether to say “yes” or “no”? Where do you need perseverance and persistence to finish the work God has committed to you?
3. How have you been able to identify religious manipulation? In what ways are you equipped to discern and resist unbiblical counsel? Read Acts 17:11 and 1 John 4:1. How can you grow in your understanding of God’s Word so you can protect yourself and others? Read 1 Timothy 4:12–16.
4. In what ways do you seek God in the midst of your trials? How can you grow in making prayer your “default” response? How are you striving to keep your eyes on the Lord and the work He has given you to do? How can Nehemiah’s example guide your future responses to opposition?
5. Why does being a disciple bring about satanic opposition? How have you sensed Satan’s attack in your life and ministry? How did you respond? What did you learn from these situations? How can you turn to God when the devil begins to come against you (1 Peter 5:8)?

Recommended Reading

David Noble, *Church Conflict by the Book* (BHC, 2013)

Charles Stone, *5 Ministry Killers and How to Defeat Them* (Bethany House, 2010)

Ray Pritchard, *Stealth Attack* (Moody, 2007)

Matt Perman, *How to Get Unstuck* (Zondervan, 2018)



February 19, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 7:1-73 | “People Matter”

Scripture References

Nehemiah 7:1–73
Psalm 132:12–16
1 Chronicles 16:23–36
1 Peter 2:9–10
2 Timothy 2:1–2
Acts 20:27–38
2 Corinthians 9:6–15

Study Questions

1. In what areas of your life have you demonstrated endurance (7:1–3)? Where have you lacked perseverance? How has your work life or church ministry brought glory to God? What role did you fill? How are you committed to serving to the best of your ability? Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:17, 23.
2. Why is everyone necessary to God’s kingdom work (7:4–73)? How can you intentionally seek to involve others in your area of ministry? What will you do to train those under you for increased leadership responsibilities? In what ways can you show recognition for the contributions made by those with whom you serve?
3. What priority do you give to the music ministry of Crossroads (7:1, 44)? How do you prepare your heart to sing corporately and to ensure you are focused on Christ? How do you express gratitude to God in Sunday morning worship and throughout your week?
4. How committed are you to CBC’s vision, leadership, and members (7:70–73)? How does your financial giving reflect this commitment? In what way is God calling you to increase your giving? How can your giving be an expression of worship and service?
5. What do you know about your family name and history? What would you like to discover about your family tree? Who have been the meaningful people in your spiritual genealogy? What has been passed on to you from your spiritual predecessors? What one quality are you now developing that you hope to pass on to others? How do you intend to do this?

Recommended Reading

Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines within the Church* (Moody, 1996)
J. Robert Clinton, *The Making of a Leader* (NavPress, 1988)
Howard Hendricks & William Hendricks, *As Iron Sharpens Iron* (Moody, 1995)



February 26, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell Nehemiah 8:1-18 | “People of the Book”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 7

Who did you identify as your ministry apprentice or successor?
How did you protect, serve, and care for the CBC family?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 8:1–18
Ezra 7:6, 9, 10, 28; 8:18, 22, 31
Psalm 19:7–13
Hebrews 4:12–13
Deuteronomy 6:6–7
Philippians 4:4–7
James 1:21–25

Study Questions

1. How do you prepare yourself to hear the Word on Sunday morning and in your community group? How should you respond or react to the reading and preaching of Scripture in corporate worship? What steps are you taking to better appreciate and understand Scripture?
2. When have you experienced a time of spiritual renewal in your life? What role did God’s Word play? How would you describe your intake of God’s Word (e.g., reading, memorizing, meditating, hearing) this past month? How committed are you to understanding and applying the Scriptures? What keeps you from regularly reading and studying the Bible?
3. Psalm 19:7–13 and Hebrews 4:12–13 describe the power of God’s Word. Reflect on each line in these passages. How are these verses true in your personal experience? How can you cultivate a greater appreciation for the Word? What are your Bible reading/studying goals? Jot down one spiritual goal in response to this sermon.
4. How does your Bible intake result in life change? Read James 1:21–25. In what areas of your life is it easy for you to obey Scripture? Where do you find it difficult? Who is presently helping you in your struggle with sin? How can you encourage others to obey God’s Word with delight, not mere duty?
5. When have you experienced deep conviction or grief from hearing, reading, or studying the Bible? How did the Lord bring His comfort and encouragement through the gospel? In what specific ways should the joy of the Lord be your strength (8:10)?

Recommended Reading

Ken Berding, *Bible Revival: Recommitting Ourselves to One Book* (Weaver, 2014)
Ken Ramey, *Expository Listening: A Practical Handbook for Hearing and Doing God’s Word* (Kress, 2010)
Christopher Ash, *Listen Up!: A Practical Guide to Listening to Sermons* (The Good Book Company, 2009)
Gary Thomas, *Pure Pleasure: Why Do Christians Feel So Bad about Feeling Good?* (Zondervan, 2009)



March 12, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 9:1-37 | “Remember Your Roots”

Scripture References

Nehemiah 9:1–37
Exodus 15:1–27; 34:6–7
Psalm 78:1–72
Lamentations 3:21–24
Luke 18:9–14
Hebrews 4:14–16
Ephesians 2:4–10

Study Questions

1. Why is confession of sin so important to the spiritual life? What does your struggle with confession reveal about the condition of your heart? When is the last time you prayed that the Lord would break your heart over your sin? Read Psalm 139:23–24. Will you make these verses part of your daily prayers?
2. What is the proper place of biblical confession in the local church? What guidelines should govern the public confession of sin? In what sense and to what degree should we confess the sins of our fathers (i.e., spiritual predecessors)? What might we confess? How can God consider us culpable for sins committed by others?
3. How did the Israelites talk about their sin (see 9:16, 26, 29, and 30)? How do you speak of your sin? In what ways have you justified your sin or taken it lightly? How has the holiness, greatness, and glory of God diminished in your mind and heart? How has the biblical understanding of sin been distorted in our day? What impact has this had among God’s people?
4. During the course of your Christian life, which aspects of God’s character have been most meaningful? In what specific ways has God been faithful and compassionate to you? In what practical ways can you grow in your knowledge and experience of God’s character?
5. What mighty acts have you witnessed God do in your life? How has your story demonstrated God’s amazing grace and mercy? What is most meaningful to you about the prayer in this chapter? Read Psalm 78 and Acts 7. How do these historical summaries/prayers challenge you?

Recommended Reading

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (InterVarsity, 1973)
Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God’s People* (Zondervan, 2010)
Ann Spangler, *Praying the Names of God* (Zondervan, 2004)
Donald S. Whitney, *Praying the Bible* (Crossway, 2015)



March 19, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 | “Holy Vows”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 9:1-37

What did you praise God this past week? Did you remember to begin your prayers with praise?
How did you cultivate confession?
When did you use the P.R.A.Y. acrostic?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 9:38–10:39
Deuteronomy 6:4–6
Ecclesiastes 5:1–6
Matthew 5:33–37
Hebrews 4:9–10
Proverbs 3:9–10

Study Questions

1. What is significant about leaders making an oath to be obedient (9:38)? In light of the many warnings against rash vows (e.g., Matthew 5:33–37), is it ever appropriate for Christians to make solemn promises to God today? If so, what specific behavioral changes is God calling you to make? Who will hold you accountable to your commitments? How will he or she measure your obedience?
2. In what ways do you value acceptance from non-Christians over your intimacy with Christ (10:28–29)? How are you actively taking a stand to avoid conformity with the world? How are you aligning yourself with devoted believers? When you evaluate your life, where are you in danger of falling into worldliness or isolationism?
3. How are you doing as a spiritual leader? In what areas can you grow as a spouse or parent? How can you honor God more effectively as a single, divorcee, or widow/widower? If you marry or remarry, how will you specifically honor God in your choice of a spouse (10:30)?
4. What activities or commitments interfere with your obedience to observe regular periods of rest (10:31)? What wrong thinking does an inability to rest reveal? What are some practical ways to rest? How do you feel about Jesus’ call for all who labor and are heavy laden to go to Him for rest for their souls (Matthew 11:28–29)?
5. How do you consistently acknowledge that all you have belongs to the Lord (10:32–39)? In what ways do you make investments for eternity? How are you contributing appropriately to CBC’s vision of building disciples who bring Jesus to our world? How can you be generous and trust the Lord to provide for your needs?

Recommended Reading

Joseph Stowell, *The Weight of Your Words* (Moody, 1998)
Pete Briscoe, *Secrets from the Treadmill: Discover God’s Rest in the Busyness of Life* (Thomas Nelson: 2004)
Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, Revised and updated (Tyndale, 2003)



March 26, 2023 | Pastor Alex Kato
Nehemiah 11:1-12:47

1. As you reflect on various families' call to stay or move in Nehemiah 11-12, take some time to pray over and ponder the challenges and opportunities of the place you currently live, using a simple T-chart, as below. If you live with family members or roommates, consider doing this together. Think about this on both a regional and granular level, e.g., the city you live in and the street you live on. Consider repeating this exercise with other places to which God has called you or may call you, such as where you grew up, somewhere you recently lived, or somewhere you're considering moving.

Challenges	Opportunities

2. Looking at these charts, how does faithfulness in your current location require some adaptation from faithfulness in past locations?
3. Why do you think God has called you to where you are geographically today?
4. Do you sense any stirring to move, and as you consider it in prayer, do you believe God would have you explore those options or set them aside for now?
5. What in this exercise warrants thanksgiving to God, like we see in Nehemiah 12? Take some time to thank God with others, such as your community group, family, or roommates.



April 2, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 13:1-31 | “Forgetting and Remembering”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 11:1–12:47

Why do you believe God has called you here for this time?
What are the costs for you of being here now?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 13:1–31
Deuteronomy 12:5–6, 11, 18; 14:28–29
Ezekiel 20:12–24
Deuteronomy 7:1–4
Psalm 103:8–14
Psalm 25:1–22
Lamentations 3:21–26

Study Questions

1. How is CBC impacting the world? How are we being negatively impacted by the world? Of what areas of sin do we need to repent? What steps do we need to take for consecration, purification, and rededication? Where have we let the service and worship of God go unattended? How can you encourage CBC to repent and return to following the Lord?
2. Where have you been getting lazy in your spiritual life (13:4–28)? What pressures in your personal life, work life, or church life tempt you to compromise? How are you doing in your commitment to follow and obey God’s Word? Who can help you be more diligent in your understanding and application of God’s Word?
3. Why is confronting other Christians in their sin a gracious and loving thing to do (13:11, 17, 25)? When have you rebuked a sister or brother in Christ? How can you cultivate courage to confront? What areas of your own life may need a rebuke? If and when a person confronts you about a sin, do you tend to become angry and defensive, or do you repent out of humility and gratitude for the correction? Explain why.
4. What do you want to be remembered for (13:14, 22, 31)? In what areas do you need to repent in order to be remembered well? How has the book of Nehemiah impacted your view of God and your world? What attributes of God have you seen displayed in the book of Nehemiah? What aspect of God’s character has been most meaningful to you?
5. How can you protect and enhance the corporate worship of God (13:30–31)? Why is corporate worship so important? What are your personal convictions regarding corporate worship? What commitments or convictions do you need to renew? What will you do this week to help others value worshiping with God’s people?

Recommended Reading

Kenneth C. Newberger, *Hope in the Face of Conflict: Making Peace with Others the Way God Makes Peace with Us* (Three Sons, 2011)
Alfred Poirier, *The Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict* (Baker, 2006)
Jonathan Leeman, *Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus* (Crossway, 2012)