

October 9, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Rebuild // The Story of Nehemiah
Episode 3: Gate Keeping
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Nehemiah 2:11-18

¹¹ I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹² I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. ¹³ By night I went out through the **Valley Gate** toward the Jackal Well and the **Dung Gate**, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I moved on toward the **Fountain Gate** and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵ so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. ¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So, they began this good work.

UNDERSTANDING ANCIENT GATES: THE GATES OF JERUSALEM: The Jaffa Gate shows us viscerally that ancient city gates were not just entrances. Instead, they were the natural focal point for public life. The Bible itself records that city gates were used in various ways. At the gates people would finalize business deals ([Genesis 23](#)), arrange marriages ([Ruth 4](#)) and settle disputes in the presence of witnesses ([Amos 5](#)). The king used gates to address his subjects ([2 Samuel 18](#)).

GATES OF JERUSALEM: 1.Sheep 2.Fish 3.Old 4.Valley 5.Dung 6.Fountain 7.Water 8.Horse 9.Inspection 10.East
1. God inspires the hearts of gatekeepers.
2. Gatekeepers walk in God's grace and favor.

WHAT IS A GATEKEEPER? One who is charged with not only keeping a gate well maintained, secured and functioning, but also decides upon what and whom shall be allowed to enter or leave.

1. God inspires the hearts of gatekeepers.

- **Vs. 12** I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem.

1. Nehemiah was aware of an inkling of God's passion within his heart.

2. Gatekeepers walk in God's grace and favor:

- **Gatekeepers remove disgrace: Vs. 17** Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.
- **Gatekeepers walk in God's favor: Vs. 18** I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

Nehemiah's Challenge:

LET US START REBUILDING: Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So, they began this good work.

Small Group Questions:

1. Each gate Nehemiah rebuilt had a purpose. Any one gate not functioning would harm them all. What are the gates of your life and how are they doing? (ex. Financial, Relational, Health, etc.)
2. God has put His passion to rebuild in Nehemiah's heart. Do you have a God given passion in your heart?
3. Gatekeepers upkeep the condition of gates and allow or disallow access. How do we maintain the condition of our lives' gates and how hard is it to act as a gatekeeper?
4. God's favor was upon Nehemiah. What does it mean to walk in God's favor?
5. What are the steps you might take to begin to repair broken walls in your life?

¹ <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Gates>

² <https://israelmyglory.org/article/the-gates-of-jerusalem-in-nehemiahs-day/>