

**Rebuild // The Story of Nehemiah**  
**Episode 8: The Vigil**  
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**Nehemiah 7:1-3**

*After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the Levites were appointed. 2 I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most people do. 3 I said to them, "The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot. While the gatekeepers are still on duty, have them shut the doors and bar them. Also appoint residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and some near their own houses."*

**Context:** After the completion of the walls of Jerusalem and the setting of its gate on their hinges, Nehemiah implements a system of "vigil"-ance.

**Understanding Vigil:** The state or character of being vigilant; watchfulness in discovering or guarding against danger, or in providing for safety; circumspection; caution.

**"The opposite of vigilance is indifference."**

**Exodus 12:42** *Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.*

1. **A stronghold devoid of vigilance is a city in wait of destruction.**

**Keeping Vigil:**

- **Vs. 1** *After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the Levites were appointed.*
  - Gatekeepers keep a physical vigil over a stronghold.
  - Musicians & Levites hold a spiritual vigil over a stronghold.
- **Vs. 2** *I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most people do.*
  - Nehemiah surrounded himself with a certain kind of people.
    - Integrity
    - God-fearing
    - Watchful

**Small Group Questions:**

1. After the building of the wall, Nehemiah reinforced it with a plan of vigilance. Are you vigilant in watching over the stronghold of your life?
2. Have you ever suffered for not being as vigilant as you could have been? What was the result?
3. Being overly vigilant is more akin to fear than holy watchfulness. Where is the balance and how do we find it?
4. Nehemiah surrounded himself with people that were God-fearing, watchful, and filled with integrity. Describe someone in your life that holds those characteristics.
5. After this series, which gates in your life are you going to pay more attention to?