

Nehemiah 1

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 28th March 2010

Intro-

- Tricky time lately with car problems, and just as it seemed getting sorted something else would go wrong. Car in for service, but just asked them to check head gasket first- we were hoping and praying for good news, but opposite- they put the death sentence on the car. At the same time money has come in- gifts, tax rebate, refund from gas company- God is good! We all love receiving good news, but how do we handle bad news? The temptation when we receive bad news is to give in to despair and to give up. We will look at Nehemiah and how he responded when it seemed God's purposes had been completely dashed by the enemy despite things initially seeming promising.

Read Nehemiah 1

Nehemiah exhibited a godly response to tough news

- **Background:** This really was bad news- Jews 70 years captivity in Babylonia. Then Persians defeated Babylonians and it seemed all their prayers were answered- Cyrus said they could go home. Initially 2 waves of people returned- first with Zerubbabel (and they rebuilt the temple), later with Ezra. Nehemiah is in Susa (Shushan) in Persia, where Esther was (she was the present king's step-mother). It is now 12 years after Ezra went back and Nehemiah is eagerly awaiting news on how they are getting on. The bad news comes from his brother (see also 7:2), Hanani. The news was that God's people who had returned to their homeland were now 'sitting ducks' with no wall of defense against the enemy and surrounded by hostile people on all sides- even gates burned (see v3). It was 'out of the frying pan into the fire'- things couldn't get much bleaker.
- **Godly response isn't to wear a mask.** Grief, not buried emotions- there was no hiding his emotions behind a mask- Nehemiah did not bottle things up, but wept openly and mourned many days (see v4). Pressure to wear the 'I'm okay' mask. A true brother is one we can cry in front of. True love sees us at our best and worst but is **steadfast**. There was an optimist that fell off the top of a 40 story building. As he passed the 13th floor he had a beaming smile and was heard to say, "So far so good."- there is a right time to show emotions other than wearing a smile.
- **Prayer-** His immediate response was prayer (v4)- he knew the situation was beyond his human ability. How long does it take us in a situation before we resort to prayer? Paul says 'pray continuously'- 1Thess 5:17. Phil 4:6-'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God'. There is a saying 'why pray when you can worry and take tranquilisers instead?' Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.
- **Fasting-** Nehemiah's prayer was accompanied by fasting (v4). Fasting takes prayer to another level- there are some demons that will only be shifted when someone has been praying beforehand accompanied by fasting (Matt 17:21; Mk 9:29; John 10:10). During a Sunday service, a woman experienced a miraculous healing in her body - so she wrote a note to her minister to tell him of her experience. As she closed her letter, she wrote, "Do you think, Reverend, that God could do something about my WEIGHT problem, too?" The minister wrote back: "Dear Sister, this kind does not go out except by fasting."

Jesus expected us to fast- not 'if' but 'when you fast'- Mt 6:16. Some cannot fast for health reasons- why not look at something else you can go without for a season to seek God's face? What about sleep? Fasting releases power for breakthrough and revelation- Jesus in wilderness fasting 40 days and left it in power of the spirit to start ministry (Lk 4:14). When Jonathan Edwards preached "Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God" he had fasted for 3 days. 500 were saved.

He was set on getting God's attention

- **He reminded God of His promises** to Israel from the covenant He had made. We need to do the same 'Lord Your word says...'. God has made a covenant with us and we can remind Him of His covenant promises in our prayers. As we read the Bible we see thousands of promises that we can access because of the New Covenant that God has made concerning us. God keeps His part of the New Covenant, but our part of the New Covenant is faith- simply believing the promises. If we have believed for salvation based on the Word of God, why not believe for the rest? Writer and speaker Lewis Smedes says: Yes, somewhere people still make and keep promises. They choose not to quit when the going gets rough because they promised once to see it through. They stick to lost causes. They hold on to a love grown cold. They stay with people who have become pains in the neck. They still dare to make promises and care enough to keep the promises they make. I want to say to you that if you have a ship you will not desert, if you have people you will not forsake, if you have causes you will not abandon, then you are like God. What a marvelous thing a promise is!
- **He asked for God's attention, like it really mattered to him.** 'Please let Your ear be attentive and your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant'- (v6 & 11). How much does it matter to us if God does not hear a certain prayer we are praying? Do we pray in an apathetic way at times? Nehemiah prayed with urgency and it got God's attention- just like the blind man shouting for Jesus' attention over the crowd- Lk 18:39- 'Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" - he got the ear of Jesus- do we? 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.'- James 5:16 KJV. God is looking for fervency in our prayer life, where it really matters to us that He answers.
- **He persisted in prayer-** 'Day and night' (v6) and 'many days' (v4) showed Nehemiah's persistence in prayer. Jesus tells a parable about a persistent widow who obtained justice because she kept on- Lk 18:1-8, and also a man who got a loaf of bread in the night because he made a nuisance of himself by keeping knocking- Lk 11:5-8. Have we really persisted until the answer has come? One cold February day a snail started climbing an apple tree. As he inched slowly upward, a worm stuck its head from a crevice in the tree to offer some advice. "You're wasting your energy. There isn't a single apple up there." The snail kept up his slow climb. "There will be when I get there," he said.

He was prepared to do his part, so that God could do His

- **He led the way in repentance.** (See v6 & 7). It seems that when God does an amazing work you don't have to look too far to find someone who was prepared to humble themselves and truly repent- Daniel before the first wave back after the exile- Dan 9:1-19. John the Baptist comes before Jesus- repentance before grace in the gospel. So often we want the grace to flow without any repentance on our part. Often, although sin is ultimately between us and God many are usually affected by the consequences of our sin. We live in a blame culture- e.g. Politician's rhetoric, but how refreshing when someone finally admits 'I messed up' even when perhaps they were less to blame than someone else. The 'cover-up' mentality will never get us very far with God. Prov 28:13-'He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.' Nehemiah's repentance moved God's heart, just like the Tax collector did when compared to the Pharisee in the parable Jesus told in Lk18:9-14. Only those who face their sinfulness can relax in God's grace. On his 70th birthday, pioneer missionary William Carey wrote to one of

his sons these words, recorded by Timothy George in "Faithful Witness": "I am this day 70 years old, a monument of Divine mercy and goodness, though on a review of my life I find much, very much, for which I ought to be humbled in the dust; my direct and positive sins are innumerable, my negligence in the Lord's work has been great, I have not promoted his cause, nor sought his glory and honour as I ought, notwithstanding all this, I am spared till now, and am still retained in his Work, and I trust I am received into the Divine favour through him."

- **He could see his part to play in the answer.** (v11) The unique circumstances he found himself in were pointing to all sorts of possibilities in God- he was cupbearer to the king. The king trusted him with his life- maybe the king would grant him permission to rebuild the wall. What are the unique circumstances surrounding you? Who are the people you can uniquely reach in a unique way for Jesus? What resources are close by that God has put in your hands and near to you to get you out of the mud? What would Jesus do in your situation? Nehemiah was already preparing his plan of action which involved risking his life- what are we prepared to do to see our prayers being answered as we utilize the resources God has already given to us?

Summary

- Nehemiah exhibited a godly response to tough news
- He was set on getting God's attention
- He was prepared to do his part, so that God could do His

Ministry: Bring your situation before God in prayer.

Nehemiah 2

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 11th April 2010

Intro-

- Last time looked at Nehemiah's godly response to terrible news where it seemed the purposes of God had come to nothing. We saw how he expressed his grief, but at the same time he committed to prayer and fasting. We saw how he was determined to get God's attention, reminding God of His promises and persevering in prayer. We also saw how he played his part in the answer by truly repenting and seeing his position as cupbearer as a potential opportunity.
- I heard a Christian once say that there exists a place called the 'field of dreams' which is a place where all the unfulfilled dreams and ambitions of Christians lie like fallen soldiers. What are your dreams in this life? What is your potential? (write them down). The thing that enables a dream to become a reality is the willingness to act. This week we will look at 4 ways Nehemiah made the first steps to enable his dream to become a reality.

Read Nehemiah 2

The importance of relationships-v2

- Nehemiah's relationship with the king was the springboard for his ministry. Before Nehemiah could see his dreams of Israel being restored becoming a reality he had a process to go through- the establishing of a faithful, trusting relationship of service to a king who did not know the true God. Sometimes being obedient to the word of the Lord is simply 'do your job and do it well'. My eagerness to be in the ministry and Tony's advice to continue being faithful in secular work first.
- Qualifications for elders in the Bible include a good reputation with outsiders-1Tim 3:7 and in Col 4:5 it says we should 'walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time' (i.e. making the most of the precious time we have with them). Nehemiah did these things and it paid off. Sometimes Christians have a wonderful reputation with other Christians because they seem so spiritual, but a stinking reputation with outsiders because they are in reality 'too spiritually minded to be of any earthly use'. As Christians we should work more faithfully than non-Christians.
- Israel should have been a light to the nations, but messed up and went into exile. Although the exile was bad it had a good aspect- Israel became a light in a dark place- Nehemiah was in fact being a light to Artaxerxes. It took the coming of Jesus for Israel to truly become what God intended for her- the light to the nations. Is 49:6 says that it is too small a thing for the messiah to restore the tribes of Jacob (Israel) but that God would make Him a light to the Gentiles bringing salvation to the ends of the earth. Jesus identifies Himself as the fulfillment of this in John 8:12 (also see Lk 2:32). In Matt 5:14 Jesus applied this to the Church, saying that we are the light of the world. Rev 1:20 says that the churches are as lampstands. Phil 2:15 says that we should live blamelessly shining as lights in the world. Do you see yourself as a light to those around you?
- Often Christians can have many Christian friends and little, if any, non-Christian friends. Phil Playfoot the evangelist encouraged people to invite their non-Christian friends to guest services, but soon realised they didn't know any. Can be worse for Church leaders. Friendship evangelism encourages relationship. We have to relate to people around us in some way if we are to be a light to them. How friendly are you? Do non-Christians think you are friendly? Theodore Roosevelt said, "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." In your desire to please God and see the work of the

kingdom done never skimp on building quality relationships with people. Let love motivate you and vision steer you.

Courage to speak-v3

- To fulfill the dream Nehemiah had to have the courage to share spiritual matters with the King, risking his life as Esther had done previously. Sir Thomas Moore did not get off so lightly when he raised spiritual matters with Henry the Eighth: Sir Thomas More (1478-1535) faced death with cheerfulness because he knew he was doing the right thing. Rather than endorse Henry the Eighth's divorce, he quit his post and returned to his home penniless. The King threw him in the Tower of London but he stood firm. He smiled on the scaffold, kissed the executioner, gave him a gold coin, and quipped with a grin, "Don't be afraid, my good man. Take care to do it well, for I have a short neck, and you mustn't ruin your reputation."
- Augustine said 'preach the gospel and if necessary, use words'. The context of this is to live what you preach but many Christians hope that their lifestyle will be enough of a message- it isn't- people need clear communication with words. People need truth- even signs and wonders must be accompanied by the speaking of truth, as Satan counterfeits these.
- The relationship existed on a certain level, but there was a God-moment where it was right to share his heart with the King. We need to not only be sensitive to people, but sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and bold enough to obey by opening our mouths and sharing God's heart. We need to discern the openings about when to share the gospel with those around us.

Action Plan

- Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) Painter- "The thing has already taken form in my mind before I start it. The first attempts are absolutely unbearable. I say this because I want you to know that if you see something worthwhile in what I am doing, it is not by accident but because of real direction and purpose."
- To fulfill the dream Nehemiah needed a plan of action
- 'Month of Nisan' (March/April) when he spoke to the King was 4 months after Chislev (Nov/Dec) when he got the bad news, so he had time to hear from God and formulate a plan of action. We need the same, both as individuals, and as a Church. It is God's Spirit of Wisdom that will enable us to plan effectively.
- 'What do you request?' -what a great question, a bit like when Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and had a plan of action also for him, a bit like the question 'brothers, what should we do?' in reply to Peter's sermon in Acts 2:37 on the day of Pentecost and also the response of the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:30 'what must I do to be saved?'. Are we ready to answer these questions? We should be. 1Pet 3:15 says 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' Sometimes we don't even hear the questions people are asking because we are not looking out for it- Nehemiah was. 'Have you always gone along to Church?', 'have you always been religious?' are leading questions often concealing a desire to know more.
- An action plan breaks a God-given vision down into faith sized action steps, taking into account practicalities, but also taking into account the hand of God. Nehemiah had a plan, but it was a grace-of-God-dependant plan. If God did not move it was useless. In the same way that Zerubbabel and Joshua before him had the revelation through the prophet Zechariah it had to be "not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit" says the Lord'. How much does your planning rely on the grace of God?
- Our vision as Brynmawr Family Church is to Build Followers of Christ in response to the great commission from our king in Matt 28:18-20. Our plan is to establish a healthy Church here in Brynmawr and then to plant into the surrounding areas. Our focus is on the areas of worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, prayer, mercy and the presence of God. This is on the front and back of each newsheet. Nehemiah went to the people with the vision and they worked. This is our vision- are you prepared to work for it? Have you owned it yet? Look on the website there are scriptures regarding it- do background study for

yourself concerning each of the areas. It is a spiritual checklist as to how we are doing individually and as the Church.

Deal with the taunts of the enemy

- Like Nehemiah, we need to deal with the Sanballat, the Tobiahs, and the Geshems of this world in order to fulfill the dream.
- We deal with them through the authority we have from the king. King Artaxerxes wrote letters for Nehemiah to back up what he was doing. In the same way Jesus has given His authority to us to fulfill the dream and make disciples. When a messenger of Satan tries to block our way we use that authority to silence them. Demons tried to do it to Jesus and He silenced them and commanded them to come out of the people.
- Also the king sent a military escort with Nehemiah should there be any problems. We are not alone- we have an escort- God's angelic host. Jesus is the Lord of hosts and He is with us on the mission, as are His angelic host. Vision someone had of a huge angel standing with us until we were established.
- What would the Sanballats and Tobiahs say about Brynmawr Family Church? How do we deal with them when they raise reasons why not, even perhaps in our own minds? We go back to the mandate from the King, just as Nehemiah did. We go back to Matt 28:18-20- 'All authority has been given to me.. therefore go'. No matter who is against us in our mission we have the King of Heaven behind us. We have a commission to fulfill from a great King and it is a great commission suited very particularly to our abilities in God. We have been crafted by the master for this day and purpose- we are that people- let's rise to the challenge! When D. L. Moody was conducting evangelistic meetings across the country, he frequently faced hecklers. One day, an usher handed the famed evangelist a note as he entered the auditorium. Supposing it to be an announcement, Moody quieted the large audience and prepared to read the notice. He opened it to find a single word: "Fool!" The colorful preacher was equal to the occasion. Said he, "This is most unusual. I have just been handed a message which consists of but one word, the word 'fool.' I repeat, this is most unusual. I have often heard of those who have written letters and forgotten to sign their names, but this is the first time I have ever heard of anyone who signed his name and forgot to write the letter!" And, taking advantage of the situation, Moody promptly changed his sermon to the text: "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." --Moody Monthly

Summary

- Nehemiah had a dream from God to fulfill. We do too. He worked from a foundation of strong relationship. He was courageous enough to bring up God's agenda in conversation. He had a plan of action and was able to silence the taunts of the enemy by referring back to his commission by the king.

Ministry: Ownership: Write down on paper: What sort of Church do you want to be part of? What part are you willing to play to see the dream become a reality?

Song- *Reign in me*

Nehemiah 3

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 9th May 2010

Intro-

- In Neh1 we looked at Nehemiah's godly response to terrible news- that the jews were like sitting ducks as the defensive walls around Jerusalem were broken down. We saw how he turned to prayer, held on to the promises of God and looked to see how he could be part of the solution.
- In Neh 2 we saw the huge importance of relationship and reputation in seeing our godly dreams fulfilled, looking at Nehemiah's key relationship with the King. We saw how Nehemiah had courage to share his vision, had a plan of action and how he dealt with opposition from the enemy by referring back to the mandate the king had given him.
- This week we look at the how the dream began to take shape as people set to work.

Read Nehemiah 3

The importance of the sheep gate- 3:1; 3:32

- The high priest was the spiritual leader of the people and both him and his colleagues were first to muck in and get their hands dirty. Out of all the areas they could choose to restore they chose the part where the sheep were brought through to be sacrificed in the temple. They were eager to repair this area and also consecrated it. During passover, the lambs would be inspected to make sure they were without blemish, and hundreds of them would pour through this gate representing each family.
- The account starts and ends with the sheep gate (also called now St. Stephen's gate and the Lion gate). The sheep gate for us today speaks of the sacrifice of Christ- the cross. The message of the cross must be central to our lives- it is the message of grace, through faith from first to last (see Romans 1:17- from faith to faith). The sheep gate was around the area of Bethesda- where the pool was, where Jesus healed the lame man (in fact John mentions that it was near the sheep gate in John 5:2). The name Bethesda means house of grace. The cross is where we access God's healing and grace. In his book, WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE?, Philip Yancey raises the matter of Jeffrey Dahmer's conversion. Dahmer, the mass murderer, abused and murdered 17 young men. He cannibalized them and stored body parts in his refrigerator. Eleven corpses were found in his apartment. He was the epitome of the word vile. During his trial he sat serenely in court, showing no signs of remorse. In November of 1994, Dahmer was beaten to death in prison by a fellow prisoner. A documentary program was made just a few weeks before Dahmer's murder. The interviewer asked him how he could possibly commit the crimes he was convicted of. Dahmer said that these things happened before he believed in God, when he wasn't accountable to anybody. He said it all began with petty crimes and small acts of cruelty, and he just kept going, further and further. Nothing restrained him. Dahmer then told of his recent religious conversion. He was baptized in the prison whirlpool and spent all of his time now reading his Bible and Christian literature. The prison chaplain affirmed Dahmer's conversion, saying that his repentance was sincere and that he was one of his most faithful worshipers. Some find reports like this troubling. Grace for a cannibal? Our natural response is to fold our arms and say, "No, it's not that easy. God isn't going to let you off just like that, not after what you did. God is forgiving, but he is no pushover. Grace is for average sinners like us, not deviants like you." The Apostle Paul in Romans 1 lists all the horrendous crimes that 'bad' people do against God, then in Romans 2 he addresses those who think they are morally superior. Paul is thinking of one person, a man or woman who, after reading chapter 1, would say, "Wait a minute. I'm not like that. I'm not perverted. I'm not violent. I don't cheat on my spouse." It is these self-righteous moralists that Paul is addressing in Romans 2. We have all fallen short of God's standards and qualify for His grace.
- The sacrificial system was their worship of God. Worship of God must be central to our lives. Jesus is our foundation, our cornerstone- all we do is to come from a love for Jesus. Last week Dave Tucker spoke about obedience to Jesus being the true

good foundation- 'Lord I love you, help me to love you more'. One of the catalysts of the Welsh revival of 1904 was when Florrie Evans declared in front of a packed hall at an evangelistic meeting 'If no one else will say it I will- I love Jesus with all my heart'. Jesus got to the heart of the matter when He asked Peter 'do you love me?' "What establishes preeminence in the Christian community is not office, title, or territory, not the charismatic gifts of tongues, healing or inspired preaching, but only our response to Jesus' question 'Do you love Me?'" Brennan Manning (2003, *The Rabbi's Heartbeat*, p.94)

The importance of every link in the chain- 3:1; 3:32

- We noted how Nehemiah 3 starts with the sheep gate in verse 1 and ends with the sheep gate in verse 32. There is a complete circuit described going anticlockwise around the walls of the city (see picture). We are only as good as our weakest link. A P.A system is only as good as the worst lead you have. Someone may have invested huge resources on one part of the wall, but unless everyone does their part it only takes one gap for the wall to be useless. 'You are the weakest link.. goodbye!'. When Israel tried to take the promise land just one person, Achan messed up by taking plunder which God had forbidden- it led to a defeat for all the Israelites at Ai. What we do privately does have an effect on the rest of the body- sin as well as holiness effects the whole.
- Each person had a part to play in repairing the bit of wall where they lived- 3:10,23,28,29,30. The place you live, work has been allocated to you by God- you are the best person to serve God in that particular area with the particular set of skills you have. Liam Neeson in taken 'I have a very particular set of skills'. You are a specialist- use what God has uniquely given you, in the place unique to you to serve Him. You are an indispensable link in the chain of what God is doing today. Dr. Halbeck, a missionary of the Church of England in South Africa, from the top of a neighboring hill saw lepers at work. He noticed two, particularly, sowing peas in the field. One had no hands; the other had no feet. The one who wanted the hands was carrying upon his back the other, who lacked the feet. He, in turn, carried the bag of seed and dropped a pea every now and then, which the other pressed into the ground with his feet. And so they managed the work of one man between the two.
- The Church is a body, a team, and ceases to function properly if all do not give their unique contribution. Although the role of pastors and leaders is key, their role is not to do all the work'- Eph 4:12 the saints are to be equipped for works of service. The pastor is late, he's forgotten the date and what will the people do then, poor things! They'll sit in the pew, with nothing to do, and sing a collection of hymns, poor things!' After doing the Network Course some have had follow up meetings to discuss areas of service. If there are areas you think you can serve in come and have a chat and let's see things happen.
- All sorts of people are involved in the rebuilding- 3:8- goldsmiths, perfumers 3:12- Shallum and his daughters; priests 3:28. Viggo Olsen, who helped rebuild ten thousand houses in war-ravaged Bangladesh in 1972, derived unexpected inspiration from reading a chapter ordinarily considered one of the least interesting in the Bible: 'I was struck...that no expert builders were listed in the "Holy Land brigade." There were priests, priests' helpers, goldsmiths, perfume makers, and women, but no expert builders or carpenters were named.'" Rehoboth and Gateway building projects- families with wheelbarrows whilst cement mixer poured. Rachel and Reuben doing painting. Sarah and myself up ladders doing plasterboarding. We are an army of ordinary people. Your country needs you. What can you give towards the war effort?

Build something which lasts- the Broad wall 3:8

- A cheap brand can look the part, but not last 10 minutes compared to the real. A cheap Rolex copy may look exactly the same as a true Rolex, but will it be as good? Building takes time- great to have Elfed Godding with us- he said that on average it takes about 7 years for Church plant to settle down and really begin to grow.
- As a Church we can become obsessed with numbers. Numbers are important, but quality, not just quantity is of huge importance- the Broad wall (Neh 3:8) was a huge

piece of wall widened generations previously by Hezekiah during the Assyrian invasion. It was now of use generations later because it was built well (you can still see it today). Build something substantial and it will serve future generations also.

- The leaning tower of Pisa took 176 years to build but was never built with the right foundations for the softness of the soil. Over those 176 years many different things were done to try and compensate for the “tilt”: The foundations were shored up and reinforced; the upper levels of the tower were actually built on at an angle to try and at least make the top of the tower look straight. The Tower of Pisa has continued to stand for over 800 years now; it now leans more than 18 feet away from the vertical, and still hangs on. Much has been done to preserve the building. But for all the reinforcements and enhancements that we can do to the structure -- even with all our modern technology -- one thing can never be “fixed”: That is, the building can never be made perfectly straight, like it was intended to be -- at least, not without tearing it down and starting it all over again. And although the structure has withstood eight centuries of wear and tear, architectural specialists do predict that eventually the structure will have to come down because of its unstable construction.
- Grace. Relationships. Accountability. Humility. Honour. Perseverance. Lifestyle of worship.

The lesson of the dung gate- 3:14

- God sees the hard work that we do, even when nobody else does and He will reward us accordingly- Heb 6:10-12
- 'Dung, dung, dung!'. 'It's a dirty job but someone's got to do it'. 'If you think you're too big for a small job, you're definitely too small for a big job'. The nobles of the Tekoites would not put their shoulders to the work Neh 3:5, but the Tekoites themselves not only did the portion allocated to them (3:5) but did an extra stint (3:27). Sometimes Christians can run away with themselves spiritually, thinking some jobs are below them- we have to get our hands dirty to see the dream become reality. Pete Davies 'rodding' over the Rehoboth. Socials are important in building Church just as the 'spiritual' meetings- we need to fellowship together to build community, as modelled by Jesus and His disciples.
- The dung gate allocated by Nehemiah to Malchijah son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem. Does not say that he had any help with it. He was from an important background- his father was leader of a whole district, yet he was prepared to take on a dirty job. The dung gate was where the rubbish and 'dung' was taken out to be thrown into the valley of Hinnom, a place previously known for idolatry and child-sacrifice (Neh.11:30; Joshua 15:8; Lev.18:21; 1 Kings 11:3,5,7; 2 Kings 23:10, 13; 2 Chron.28:3; 2 Chron.33:6; Jer.32:35; Amos 5:26; Acts 7:43) to be burned. There were constant fires there. This became a picture of Hell which Jesus used to portray his warnings about Hell to the people. The ravine/valley of Hinnom is to the southwest of Jerusalem. The Hebrew phrase *gê* (“ravine of”) *hinnom* became *geenna* in Greek, and Gehenna in Latin and English. So Malchijah literally had the gate to Hell to repair- what a job! His name literally means 'Jehovah is my King'. When God is on the throne of our lives we are prepared to serve, no matter what it takes.
- Luke 14:7-14- take the low seat. Matt 20:25-28- not lording over but a servant, just as Jesus came to serve. Bill Hybels has said: “I would never want to reach out someday with a soft, uncaloused hand – a hand never dirtied by serving – and shake the nail-pierced hand of Jesus. John Ortberg has said “Jesus took a little child in his arms and said, in effect, “Here is your ministry. Give yourself to those who can bring you no status or clout. Just help people. You need this little child. You need to help this little child, not just for her sake, but more for your sake. For if you don’t, your whole life will be thrown away on an idiotic contest to see who is the greatest. But if you serve here often and well and cheerfully and out of the limelight, then the day may come when you do it without thinking, “What a wonderful thing I’ve done.” Then you will begin serving naturally, effortlessly, for the joy of it. Then you will begin to understand how life in the kingdom works.

Summary

- Jesus and the cross to be central. Every link is important. Build to last. Serve the King.

Song- *An army of ordinary people*

Nehemiah 4

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 30th May 2010

Intro-

- In Neh1 we looked at Nehemiah's godly response to terrible news-prayer, reliance on the promises of God and a willingness to be part of solution.
- In Neh 2 we saw the importance of building strong relationships. The need for courage to share vision, organisation skills to plan it and knowing our authority to be able to implement it.
- In Neh 3 we saw the importance of the sheep gate and how, for us, Jesus and the cross are to be central. We looked at the complete circuit of the wall and emphasised that every link is important. We saw the broad wall and noted that something built well will last for generations to come. We lastly looked at the dung gate and saw how a willingness to serve and get our hands dirty for our King is such a privileged calling.

Read Nehemiah 4

3 unstoppable characteristics of Nehemiah and the people of Israel:

Belief to build- v1-6

- The enemy Sanballat is furious when he hears about the wall being rebuilt and immediately starts mocking. He then unites with others in mocking the Jews. Tobiah the Ammonite says 'even if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall'.
- Faith is often tried and tested through mockery. It is the enemy's first level of attack to shake people's faith in what they have been called to do, and the aim is to make them give up in the early stages of a work of God. Two key areas Satan tries to mock:
- **i)The people**
v2-'What are these feeble Jews doing?' Jesus knew what it was to suffer mockery. In the height of His ministry His enemies and also His own family thought He was mad (Mark 3:21; John 10:20). He was the King born in a stable, not a palace. His parents were too poor to afford the normal gift of a lamb to God for Mary's purification after childbirth- they could only offer two doves (cf. Lk. 2:24; Lev. 12:8). The people from his town rejected Him because He was just the son of a carpenter and didn't look like they thought the Messiah would. The mocking reached its climax in Jesus' trial and crucifixion, the ultimate mockery being the sign 'King of the Jews' above His crucifix as He hung there bleeding to death, naked wearing only a crown of thorns.
- 1Cor 1:27-28 'God has chosen the foolish things in this world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are'. Has mockery been used against you to try and make you give up? Why not respond as the Israelites did by 'having a mind to work' (v6) and being more determined than ever to do what God says. God puts His glory in earthen vessels.

There was a missionary, Tom Tipton, who went to a village in Uganda to share Christ. The only person who was willing to listen to the gospel was a leper who had lost both legs and part of one arm. The leper accepted Christ and Tipton taught him some Bible verses and a few choruses to sing. Tipton left and returned less than a month later to find the people gathered together singing those choruses as the leper led them with the stump of one arm. Asking how this happened, Tipton was told that the leper had crawled from hut to hut using the stump of that one arm and had shared the gospel with everyone in his village."If you and I will be faithful, less reliant

on ourselves and more reliant on God, and dependent on the fullness and the power of the Holy Spirit working through us, we can see fruit that will honor God. We have the treasure in an earthen vessel."

- **ii) The place**

v2 'Will they revive stones from heaps of rubbish- stones that are burned?' Jesus came from Nazareth- a place not known for anything significant. In Matthew 2:23 it says "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene." This specific prophecy is not immediately apparent in the Old Testament, until you realise that the Hebrew root of the word 'Nazareth' is the word 'stem'. In Isaiah 11:1 "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." The picture is of a tree trunk being cut down, and seemingly being dead, but astonishingly new life grows from it. Nazareth looked like a dead place where nothing would ever happen, but it became the home town of the most significant person in history. How do we view where we live? Do we see it through the eyes of faith or unbelief? This will affect our ability to build.

- Have to break the mentality that 'it could never happen here'- it has, and will again. The Welsh pastor who said to the visiting preacher 'It's tough here, and going to get tougher, and there will only be a few left when Jesus returns'. The opposite is true- Jesus is coming back for a wonderful bride, and where darkness is greatest in the world, the light of God's glory shines greatest on His Church (Is 60:1-2). We are sitting on a spiritual goldmine- 'there's gold in them there hills'.
- Faith is evidenced by works (James 2:17-18)- the Israelites faith that the wall could be rebuilt caused them to work hard to rebuild it. Unbelief leads to apathy and a stopping working. What do you want to see happen? What do you believe could happen? What are you doing to make it happen? Are there areas of God's work you have neglected due to unbelief? Let God re-ignite that flame of faith and make a choice to get back to His work.

Wisdom about weakness- v7-15

- Nehemiah knew that although bits of the wall were completed, some areas were only half their intended height. These were the areas vulnerable to the attack of the enemy, and so he placed guards specifically in these areas.
Building of the Great Wall of China. They built it so high that no one could get over it. And they built it so thick that no one could tunnel through it. They built this gigantic wall that still exists today. And then the people of China sat down behind the wall, feeling that their future was secure. But in the first 100 years of the existence of the Wall of China, China was invaded three different times. The enemy didn't come over because it was too high. They didn't tunnel through because it was too thick. But each time China was invaded, the enemy came through a gate left open for them. Those who guarded the gate had been bribed. And while the people of China sat comfortably behind the security and the safety of the wall, they failed to teach their children integrity and patriotism. So they sold out to the enemy. And the enemy invaded their land.
- Open doors for the enemy need to be closed off. Repentance closes the door. Accountability helps keep it closed.
- Money, sex and power are 3 common avenues that Satan loves to trip us up in. What are your weak areas? Do you know them?
- **Bring into the light.** Hidden things gain power ('he who covers his sins will not prosper'- Prov 28:13. 'Confess your sins to one another' James 5:16). E.g. -self-disclosure, me epilepsy, my friend bedwetting- problem shared is a problem halved. Preferable same sex sharing, especially if personal problem. One of reasons the Methodist revival was so powerful in people's lives was because of the 'experience meeting'. At these people would not do Bible studies, but rather just discuss their walk with the Lord, confessing sins but also discussing their experiences of God.
- **Be filled with the Spirit.** He is the Holy Spirit- enables us to be holy. Rom 7:13 says that it is by the Spirit that we put to death the deeds (sins) of the body. Live by the Spirit and you will bear the fruit of the Spirit- Gal 5. We need to be filled regularly. Walk according to how the Holy Spirit leads. Also daily prayer for

protection in the specific areas you struggle with 'lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil'.

- **Use relevant parts of God's Word.** Find out what the Bible says about what you struggle with. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit- absorbing the Word, especially concerning areas we are vulnerable in will give something for the Spirit to bring to our minds when we are tempted- see Jesus when tempted by Satan in wilderness.
- **Live like your old sinful nature is dead.** 'Old has gone, new has come' (2Cor 5:17), 'old nature crucified with Christ' and we are now to 'consider' ourselves 'dead to sin' (Rom 6:6,11). 'Therefore put to death'- (Col 3:5) because it has happened spiritually, make it true experientially. Take off the old man and put on the new. WWJD- Carles Sheldon's book 'In His Steps' ='what would Jesus do?' became popular on wristbands in the 1990's.
- **Use your will.** Satan will deceive us into believing he can override our will, however this is not the case, and through Jesus we have all authority over him (Luk 10:19). Jesus calls us to deny ourselves (Lk 14:27). He provides a way out of every temptation (1Cor 10:13). We have been given all necessary to live a godly life (2Pet 1:3).
- **Nip things in the bud.** Temptation is not sin, but temptation when entertained leads to sin. Recognise it immediately and take drastic action immediately. Jesus spoke of 'Cutting off your hand and gauging out your eye'- i.e. Not literal, but drastic action- i.e. avoiding things that you know will lead you into temptation.
There was a cable TV station that had trouble with its electronic switching equipment, resulting in X-rated programs being fed into the homes of many subscribers who hadn't ordered it. The alarm was sounded by a scandalized customer who called a local radio station to say, "It was really awful -- we saw it for four hours."

Combined commitment v16-23

- **Everyone was doing something.** Some were on guard. Others were fighting the enemy. Some were building the wall. Some were building and fighting. Each man and his servant stayed day and night in Jerusalem to act as guards at night. There probably would have been a rota for lookout and sleeping.
- What are you doing/can you do for the Lord? Apart from Him we know we can do nothing, however, once we have Him there is much we can do. Count Zinzendorf was born in 1700 into one of the most noble families of Europe. One day he saw a painting of Jesus being crucified and underneath the words 'This I have done for you, what are you doing for me?' God spoke powerfully to him through this painting, and he decided to dedicate the rest of his life to serving Christ. He began a special 24-hour prayer meeting amongst the Moravians in a village called Hernhut on August 26, 1727. Amazingly this prayer meeting continued without ceasing for 100 years! John Wesley visited the village and called it the 'happiest place on earth!' It birthed a mission movement seeking to fulfill the great commission of Matt 28. In the 2 decades that followed, the Moravians sent out more missionaries than all the protestants and anglicans had sent out in the previous 2 centuries!
- **They were ready to rally together when called.** Because of the scale of the work they were separated by distance, but all would come together where they heard the trumpet call. There are set times we need to stop what we're doing and rally together under the same trumpet call, or the building work will suffer. The people realised that by serving each other, they were in fact serving God (our God will fight for us). Homegroups and Sundays are both important trumpet calls to the people of God in this Church. When you are not there, your skills, personality and input are missing. We are an army and we need all the warriors if we are to succeed in fulfilling our purpose here. When we serve one another, or dedicate to one another, we are in fact serving and dedicating to God. When servants are commanded in

scripture (Eph 6:5-7) to work when the eye is off them as to the Lord, not to men, how much more does that apply to His saints within His Church?

C.S.Lewis said these words concerning how Jesus expects us to commit to Him - "Christ says, 'Give me all. I don't want so much of your money and so much of your work -- I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the whole natural self instead. In fact I will give you myself, my own will shall become yours.'"

Summary

- Belief to build. Wisdom about weakness. Combined commitment

Song- *We are the army of God*

Nehemiah 5

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 15th August 2010

Intro-

- In Neh1-4 we have seen how the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and how Nehemiah reacted in a godly way, casting vision to rebuild the walls and putting the vision into action by motivating the people despite opposition from Israel's enemies.
- This week after a brief interval we are returning to see how they are getting on and we will see how Satan tries to attack them again, not from the outside this time, but from a situation within.

Read Nehemiah 5

Today we are focussing on our family relationships- those within the Church and at home- 2 key areas to excell at. We will look at 4 principles from this passage which we can apply to our lives:

Our focus must not be so outward that we neglect the inward

- What the enemy fails to do externally he will try to do internally-v1
There was a 'great outcry'. This was not from the enemy but from the Jews' own brothers and sisters. This was not the first outcry against the Jews, but it was the first time the cry had come from within.
 - Like a Roman army that has shields impenetrable over its heads against all the fiery darts of the enemy, but then each soldier kills his fellow soldiers with daggers under the shields
 - Like a football team which has defenders the opponents can't get past, but then the defenders choose to score 5 own goals
 - Like organising a holiday and fighting to get time off and everything co-ordinated and work up to date and everything right, and finally get down to the beach and end up having a family argument.
 - Like fighting to get time away with husband/wife and arranging babysitter and venue and everything and then end up having a row with each other.
- Relationships are where it is at- vision is either made or broken on the strength of our relationships, and the toughest relationships to really excell at are the ones which really mean the most to us- our nearest and dearest- because things hurt so much more when they come from your own 'flesh and blood'. We can be so tough in enduring persecution from without, but when attacks come from within there is something within us that really feels like giving up- it steals our get up and go.
- It should not surprise us that Satan targets relationships within the Church. Jesus warns that in the last days relationships between brothers and sisters in the Church will be tested, even to the point of brother betraying brother to death.
 - Jesus knew what this was like having been betrayed by the disciple He honoured at the passover table by sharing the sop (Judas Iscariot), and having all the disciples desert Him and Peter deny Him 3 times.
- How do we get through this? By following the example of Jesus who prayed blessing and strength over Peter even before he denied Him, and restored the relationship by seeking Peter out and reinstating him. Jesus said 'blessed are the peacemakers' and He left us with this command 'love one another'.
- It was the same in the book of Acts when greeks complained to the hebrews over their widows being missed out in the distribution of food. It could have led to a huge Church split- instead it led to the role of deacons in the Church- love will find a practical solution
- How is your focus? How are your most important relationships? You may be making progress in many areas of your life but are you sowing into the important relationships? When was the last time you told the people you really care about that you love them, or did an action to show them?
- WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN -- Original List ... (at age 22)

1. Handsome
2. Charming
3. Financially Successful
4. A Caring Listener
5. Witty
6. In Good Shape
7. Dresses with Style
8. Appreciates the Finer Things
9. Full of Thoughtful Surprises
10. An Imaginative, Romantic Lover

WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN, Revised List ... (at age 32)

1. Nice Looking - preferably with hair on his head
2. Opens car doors, holds chairs
3. Has enough money for a nice dinner at restaurant
4. Listens more than he talks
5. Laughs at my jokes at appropriate times
6. Can carry in all the groceries with ease
7. Owns at least one tie
8. Appreciates a good home cooked meal
9. Remembers Birthdays and Anniversaries
10. Seeks romance at least once a week

WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN, Revised List ... (at age 42)

1. Not too ugly - bald head OK
2. Doesn't drive off until I'm in the car
3. Works steady - splurges on dinner at McDonalds on occasion
4. Nods head at appropriate times when I'm talking
5. Usually remembers the punch lines of jokes
6. Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
7. Usually wears shirt that covers stomach
8. Knows not to buy champagne with screw top lids
9. Remembers to put the toilet seat lid down
10. Shaves on most weekends

WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN, Revised List ... (at age 52)

1. Keeps hair in nose and ears trimmed to appropriate length
2. Doesn't belch or scratch in public
3. Doesn't borrow money too often
4. Doesn't nod off to sleep while I'm emoting
5. Doesn't re-tell same joke too many times
6. Is in good enough shape to get off sofa on Weekends
7. Usually wears matching socks and fresh underwear
8. Appreciates a good TV Dinner
9. Remembers your name on occasions
10. Shaves on some weekends

WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN, Revised List ... (at age 62)

1. Doesn't scare small children
2. Remembers where bathroom is
3. Doesn't require much money for upkeep
4. Only snores lightly when awake (LOUDLY when asleep)
5. Forgets why he's laughing
6. Is in good enough shape to stand up by himself
7. Usually wears some clothes
8. Likes soft foods
9. Remembers where he left his teeth
10. Remembers when...

WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN, Revised List ... (at age 72)

1. Breathing

Fear of the Lord makes us sort our relationships-v9, v15

- Steve Thomas spoke on this last week and we looked at the 'fear of the Lord' in

homegroups last week. It means being most concerned about pleasing our Father God and having an awesome respect for Him, and living in holiness. The fear of the Lord has a cost- obedience.

- Nehemiah knew that what marks a person who has no fear of the Lord is tolerating unresolved conflict in relationships, leading to a trail of broken relationships and hurting people where the Lord is not glorified and His name is brought into disrepute by those who do not know Him. He was concerned that if the godless nations saw the infighting it would bring dishonour to God. Paul was also concerned about this when he heard there was infighting in the Church at Corinth even to the point where they were taking one another to court over their disputes. Paul's concern was that the name of God would be dishonoured.
- If we truly fear God we will display it by a determination to be at peace with all as much as it depends on us. In times of revival- people sort relationships because they don't want to be out of sorts with God- e.g those who repented to John Avant.
- Jesus promised that by our love for each other all people would know that we are His disciples.
- Do we fear the Lord? Do we see the connection between our fear of God and the need to restore relationships? Are they relationships we need to sort?
- In 1981, a Minnesota radio station reported a story about a stolen car in California. Police were staging an intense search for the vehicle and the driver, even to the point of placing announcements on local radio stations to contact the thief. On the front seat of the stolen car sat a box of crackers that, unknown to the thief, were laced with poison. The car owner had intended to use the crackers as rat bait. Now the police and the car owner were more interested in apprehending the thief to save his life than to recover the car. So often when we run from God, we feel it is to escape his punishment. But what we are actually doing is eluding his rescue. What relationships are we keeping from God because we are afraid of what He will ask us to do to our detriment? God actually wants to help us as we surrender to Him.

God desires justice and mercy in our relationships

- Have you ever been truly ripped off? *National Inquirer*: "Learn how to avoid ripoffs - send \$5." (Dennis Miller joke). The real hustle looks at ways people try to rip others off- e.g. pretending to be working for hotels and parking the car for guests but stealing the cars instead. We live in an age of loan sharks and it was no different then. 'Usury' means interest (came to mean excessive interest). The Jews were commanded in the law not to charge interest on loans they gave to a fellow Jew, but could to non-Jews (Lev 25:36-37; Deut 23:19-20).
- There was famine due to the war affecting economic conditions. There were taxes to pay to the Persian government for land. As some were getting poorer the rich were lending them money at extortionate rates. Some had to sell their land and were forced to become slaves to their fellow Jews. As some went under others were prospering- the rich were getting richer and the poor poorer- the same we see in many parts of the world today.
- God is a God of justice. He will bring justice to the poor. We live in a society where some people who are truly sick are unaware of the benefits they could be and should be claiming, whilst others are perfectly healthy and making out they are ill and claiming immorally. We live in a society where some people pay too much taxes because they don't understand some things they can claim tax relief on, whilst others claim relief on things they should not and fiddle their taxes and claim extra expenses etc. For the Christian we are to be exemplary- would we want to be identified with those ripping their brothers off or those bringing blessings to their brothers (as Nehemiah did).?
- God has a real heart for the weak, poor and downtrodden. In films when the weak say 'Go on save yourself, I'll only hinder you', we love it when the hero replies, in love, 'No I won't go on without you'. We need to have the same concern for the poor, weak and vulnerable. Ministry development does not tread down the weak,

but lifts them up and serves them. Ministry development does not leave the children behind, but serves them. The gospel is good news for the poor (Is 61). That's why mercy mission has to be at the heart of who we are as church & one of the 8 purposes on our vision statement on the back of every newsletter. What is your attitude towards the poor?

- 2Cor 9:6, Luk 6:38- we reap in proportion to what we sow. What we dish out to others will come back to us, either to haunt us or bless us. Jesus said 'You cannot serve both God and Mammon'. Mammon comes from an Aramaic word meaning wealth or property. It is personified in the Bible in this passage because some people literally live for money as if it is their master. If Jesus is truly our Lord He must be Lord also of our pockets. All we have belongs to Him and we are guided by kingdom principles in our finances.
- Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Lord, Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything I will pay back four times the amount." (Luk 19:8)- Ex 22:1 -says if a man steals a sheep he shall make restitution by giving back 4 sheep.
- We are to be known as givers, but that is not simply financial, but in terms of our service. In church we live in a 'fellowship'- it is like we are all rowers and each has an oar, however, just like the world, in many churches there is only a small percentage of people doing the rowing- after a time the small percentage get burned out and drop out and a few more take their place. The church however should be the one place where each is putting their all into the team effort and the 'fellowship' moves forward at a rapid pace.
- What is God calling you to take on? What is God calling you to give up? What is your ministry oar and are you doing it? Are you short-changing others by holding back your ministry whilst benefitting from the ministry of others in the body?
- Do the phrases 'justice' and 'mercy' characterise you or, like Zacchaeus are there some things that need to be addressed to truly be obedient to Jesus? Is Jesus Lord of your pocket? "On September 11, 2001, three thousand innocent civilians died. That same day, thirty thousand children died of disease and starvation. God cares as much about the latter as the former. Do you?" Dr. Tony Campolo.

True change involves words and action

- How many sermons have we heard and thought 'mmm that really spoke to me' and a few weeks later we have completely forgotten it?
- Nehemiah would not allow this to happen. Change had to happen, and it had to be lasting change. He first got the people to pledge to change by making an oath (v12-13)-speaking out what they were going to do in the presence of God and witnesses. Jesus spoke against the taking of oaths not in the sense that it is wrong to make oaths (we do when we get married), but because people got into the habit of only believing people were telling the truth if they swore by God or the temple etc. Jesus basically said 'choose to always tell the truth and you won't need to swear an oath'. Why not speak out your plans to change in the areas God is telling you. Speak them out to a friend and ask for their help in seeing change in that area. Change starts with verbalising what you intend doing.
- Nehemiah insisted that the people make restitution. Nehemiah personally fed 150 poor Jews at his table (v17-18, not including non-Jews) and led the way in lending poor people money and grain (v10). If you were to make restitution to everyone for things you have done in this life before you meet your maker what things immediately spring to mind? Sometimes we can't make restitution because people have died etc. but is there something creatively we can do that will bring joy to Heaven?
- Me taking library books back to St. Cadocs. Rev. W. P. Nicholson in Belfast, Ireland, an evangelist at the turn of the century would preach to the dock workers powerfully, causing conviction, and insisting on repentance. Many men accepted Christ and started to bring back everything they had stolen from the shipyards. In the end the authorities had to make a public announcement: "Will all those attending the meetings of Mr Nicholson please stop returning stolen goods. "We have nowhere to

store them."

Summary

- Our focus must not be so outward that we neglect the inward
- Fear of the Lord makes us sort our relationships.
- God desires justice and mercy in our relationships.
- True change involves words and action

Song- *I give You all the honour*