

Sunday 12th March 2023 - Nehemiah 7:1-7

This morning we reach something of a turning point in the book of Nehemiah.... the walls have been completed and the gates have now been hung. Jerusalem's defences are now complete.

1. Looking back over the first 6 chapters, what are the challenges that Nehemiah faced? How did he deal with them?
2. What can you draw from Nehemiah's leadership that can help you in the challenges that you face today?

As Nehemiah gets ready to return to Babylon, which he promised to do (Neh. 2:6) he sets up a new leadership structure to take over from him.

It's important that we recognise we are all leaders in different ways. The most important way we lead is the way we choose to lead our own lives.

This morning I spoke about three principles that Nehemiah set out as he prepared to leave for Babylon.

**Leadership** - *leaders need to be concerned and caring, have integrity and be dependable and faithful. They also need to 'fear God more than most people do'.*

3. Taking each of these features in turn, and bearing mind we are all leaders, what might we be able to do to develop these features in ourselves?

**Guardianship** - *leaders need to be on 'the look out' for potential trouble and guard against false teachings, no matter how tempting or attractive or convenient they may be.*

4. In our day and age, we're not like the people living in Jerusalem who had to be on the lookout for foreign armies wanting to attack their city. What are the areas of potential trouble and false teachings we do face? How might we continue to guard against them?

**Membership** - *leaders need to be aware of the fact that people are far more important to God than any building project, hence the detailed list of people who were involved in the rebuilding of the walls and gates of Jerusalem.*

5. What is it about the nature of God that convinces us He loves us so much?
6. How would you explain to someone who doesn't yet know Jesus, that He loves them?
7. Who could you invite to one of our Easter Services or events celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III? Spend time supporting each other in prayer for this and be accountable to each other over the coming weeks.