

Inspecting the Walls

Nehemiah 2:11-16

I. A work involving considerable danger

- A. The ruined condition of the walls made the survey treacherous (vv. 13-15).
- B. The enmity of the Samaritans made the work dangerous. Had they known of Nehemiah's vulnerability that night, he may have been attacked.
- C. God's servants often travel perilous roads.

II. A work requiring personal sacrifice

- A. After a trip of 700 to 800 miles and only three days' rest, Nehemiah went to work.
- B. The devil does not rest (cf. Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:8).
- C. Though Nehemiah could have sent someone else, he laid aside his official dignity and went himself.

III. A work requiring moral courage

- A. The task was overwhelming.
- B. Nehemiah could only cast himself on God.
- C. Cf. Ezekiel 37:3-6.

IV. A work that had an important bearing on all following operations

- A. The survey furnished accurate information for the work that would be done. Knowledge is power.
- B. It kindled enthusiasm for the performance of the work. The greater the ruin, the greater the work needed.
- C. Two truths were brought to mind by the sight of the ruins:
 - 1. God is faithful (cf. Jer. 30:18).
 - 2. Sin is vile and harmful. These broken walls were the result of Israel's disobedience.