



Book of Nehemiah

The true victory is found when we overcome jealousy and selfishness, not just in our prosperity but in the prosperity of our neighbors. In God's kingdom, we do not ask to be struck blind in one eye; instead, we pray for sight to see the needs of our brothers and sisters and for the generosity of spirit to act on those observations.

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When the enemy in his attacks from the outside, he then begins to attack from within; and one of his favorite weapons?

Selfishness.

It seeks to divide us, to have us place 'I' before 'us.'

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“To consider persons and events and situations only in the light of their effect upon myself is to live on the doorstep of hell.”

Thomas Merton

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**Nehemiah teaches us
that the strength of a
community isn't only in
its walls, but in the
integrity of its
relationships.**

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Acts 6

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Every person, every
member, **together**
accomplishing the
mission.

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In order to stay on mission, we must remain vigilant, aware of challenges, fueled by prayer, and united in our pursuit.

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In order to stay on mission, we must remain vigilant, aware of challenges, fueled by prayer, and united in our pursuit.

When our gaze drifts from the 'Who'—from our great and awesome God—our 'hows' seem insurmountable.

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was "Hanna." I went on through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned. Let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, and we will no longer be a disgrace. Then how the gracious God had been on me. The king had said to me, 'They said, "Let's start building, and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horonathite, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised. "What is this you're doing? You're rebelling against the king." I gave them this reply, "The heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem."

“Let us.”

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The “Big Picture”:

- Food (v. 1)**
- Famine (v. 2)**
- Finances (v. 4)**

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...through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down the wall became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls so we will no longer be a disgrace. They said, "Let's start rebuilding." But their hands were slow to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horonathite, the Ammonite official, and the Arab heard about it, they mocked and despised us. "What is this you're doing? You're rebelling against the king," they said. I gave them this reply: "The heavens are the witness that we have no success. We are building, but you have no power or historic claim in Jerusalem."







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So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, we will no longer be a disgrace, then how the gracious God had been on me, the king had said to me. They said, "Let's start, and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horan, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised. "What is this you're doing, rebelling against the king? I gave them this reply, "The heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem."

Nehemiah 5

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When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very **angry**. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging your own people interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them and said:

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“As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

Nehemiah 5:6-8

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through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had been. I was afraid of the Ammonites, the Arabs, the Philistines, and the Ethiopians, who would be doing the work. So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, and we will no longer be a disgrace. Let's start now, for the gracious hand of our God has been on me." They said, "Let's start now, and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horian, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised us. 'What is this you're doing?' he asked them. They replied, 'The strength of Jerusalem is the one who will succeed. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem.'

**Something stirs within
Nehemiah – people aren't
being treated well, and
that prompted him.**

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Nehemiah was not a politician who asked, "What is popular? Or a diplomat who asked "What is safe?" but a true leader who asked,

"What is right?"

Genesis 12:1-3:

God promises to make
Abraham a great nation,
to bless him,
to make his name great,
so that he will be a **blessing**.

So I continued, “What you are doing is **not right**. Shouldn’t you walk in the **fear** of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!

Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.”

“We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised.

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God's vision encompasses far more than the tasks we undertake; it embraces the people we are called to reach.

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He did not neglect building people up and he recognized that ministry is about people. He understood that the true measure of restoration is found in the hearts being set right before God and each other.

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Foundational Truth:

Love for God and love for neighbor are not merely parallel tracks that occasionally intersect; they are inseparably intertwined, guiding us in the same direction toward the heart of God.

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He did not simply just keep on building without listening, His efforts in rebuilding the walls were not separate from his commitment to rebuilding the community within those walls.

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“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-40

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Ever a bit overwhelmed at the Bible's command to love each other?

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**How do you keep your heart
soft when you go through
the hard stuff?**

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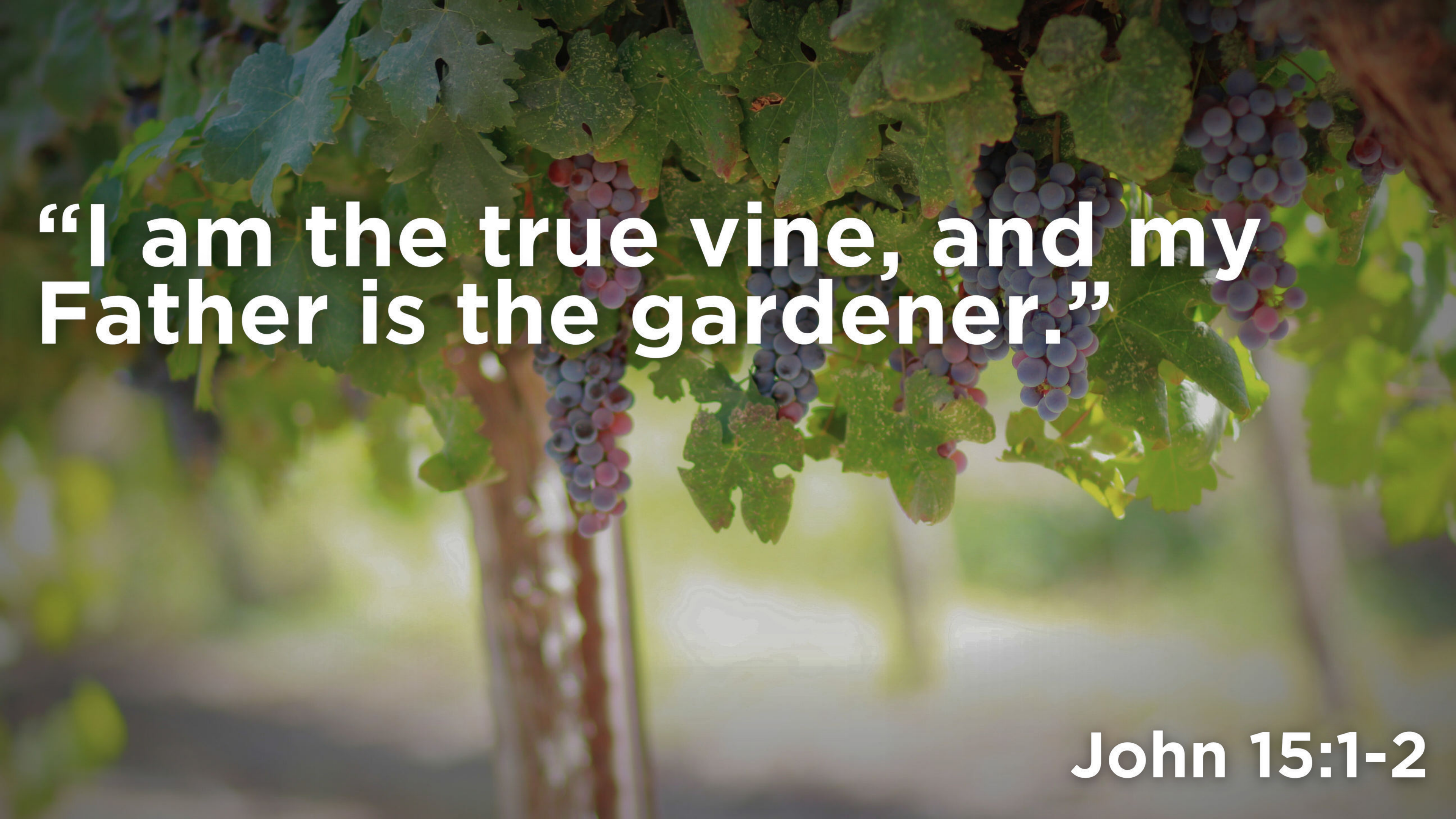
**The enemy would love
that hard experience to
produce a hard heart
in you.**

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Farewell Discourse

John 14-17





**“I am the true vine, and my
Father is the gardener.”**

John 15:1-2

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**“If you keep my commands,
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s
commands and remain in his
love.”**

John 15:10

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**God cannot be loved apart
from our neighbor, and our
neighbor cannot be loved
apart from God.**

ABIDE

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I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your **joy** may be **complete**.

John 15:11

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Simon the Zealot

Matthew the Tax Collector

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**But Jesus called both of them,
along with ten other
underqualified disciples.**

**For the better part of three
years, they spent every day
beside each other.**

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When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the **help of our God.**

Nehemiah 6:15

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**“Truly, God is at work
among them.”**