

Why Nehemiah Was Able to Make a Difference  
(Philippians 4:13)

Introduction:

1. According to Philippians 4:13, "one servant of God can make a difference."
2. By depending upon the Lord for strength, we "*can do all things.*"
3. This morning we showed how Nehemiah illustrated this principle.
4. This evening we are examining 4 of Nehemiah's characteristics that enabled him to make a difference.
5. The Lord possessed them, and we are to possess them as well.

Discussion:

- I. FIRST, NEHEMIAH HAD A HEART OF COMPASSION, AS DEMONSTRATED IN 1:4
  - A. His compassion led him to do something about the situation in Jerusalem.
  - B. (Matthew 9:36) The Lord's compassion led Him to do something about another situation.
  - C. (1 Peter 3:8) Christians are to have "*compassion one of another.*"
  - D. A heart of compassion can enable a servant of God to make a difference.
- II. SECOND, NEHEMIAH HAD A SENSE OF PURPOSE
  - A. Nehemiah revealed his purpose to the king (2:5), and he maintained it.
  - B. The Lord had a sense of purpose (Luke 19:10).
  - C. Christians are to have a sense of purpose (Galatians 6:10).
  - D. Having a sense of purpose can enable a servant of God to make a difference.
- III. THIRD, NEHEMIAH TRUSTED IN GOD COMPLETELY
  - A. Nehemiah's trust in God is reflected in:
    1. his prayers (1:4; 2:4)
    2. his responses to the enemies (2:20; 4:4; 6:9b).
  - B. The Lord trusted His Father (John 8:28-29).
  - C. Christians are to trust in God (1 Timothy 4:10).
  - D. Trust in God can enable a servant of God to make a difference.
- IV. FOURTH, NEHEMIAH FACED AND OVERCAME OBSTACLES
  - A. He faced and overcame obstacles from the enemies as well as the Jews.
  - B. The Lord overcame obstacles throughout His ministry (John 16:33).
  - C. Christians are to imitate Nehemiah and Jesus (Romans 12:21).
  - D. The ability to overcome obstacles can enable a servant of God to make a difference.

Conclusion:

1. Nehemiah certainly made a difference when he lived.
2. We are still benefiting from the things he did.
3. We have considered 4 of his characteristics that enabled him to make a difference.
4. As servants of God, let us:
  - a. have hearts of compassion
  - b. maintain a sense of purpose
  - c. trust in God completely
  - d. face and overcome obstacles when they arise.
5. By developing and maintaining these characteristics, we can have the confidence expressed in Philippians 4:13.