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오늘의 말씀

"Restoration of the Wall: Rebuilding the Holy Boundaries"

[Nehemiah 6:1~3]

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), (2) that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm. (3) So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

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We have entered the “Grace of Restoration” series. First, “Come Back to the Beginning of Restoration”; second, “The Restoration of the Temple; The Restoration of Worship”; and third, “The Restoration of the Law; The Power of the Word.” Today, in the fourth message, we turn to “The Restoration of the Wall; Building Holy Boundaries.”

Introduction ~ Restoration is completed by enduring holiness. The temple in Jerusalem was restored, worship was restored, and a revival of the Word took place. Yet through Nehemiah God intended one more essential work—the restoration of holy boundaries. The wall was not merely a physical structure; it symbolized the spiritual boundary by which God’s people remained distinct from the world and preserved holiness. The recovery of faith does not end with an experience of grace. The fence that preserves that grace must be raised for restoration to be real and lasting.

**[Psalm 51:12] “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”**

Today’s text shows the completion of the wall and the spiritual battle surrounding it.

Nehemiah’s leadership and the meaning of holy boundaries

The wall served as a marker that set a boundary between “the people who belong to God” and “the world.” The temple is the center of worship, but the wall is worship’s shield.

Nehemiah taught the people that “only when the wall is completed is the city of God secure,” meaning the community of faith must guard its identity amid the world.

Our Lord prayed this for His disciples:

**[John 17:15–17] “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (16) “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the**

**world. (17) "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

Therefore, the restoration of the wall that Nehemiah accomplished was the fulfillment of preserving holiness.

As they sought to rebuild, three hindrances arose (Neh 6:1–9).

The first test was the temptation to compromise. Sanballat and Tobiah invited Nehemiah to meet in the plain of Ono. It looked like a cooperative proposal, but in truth it was a snare to break holiness. Perceiving this, Nehemiah refused.

**[Nehemiah 6:1~3] Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), (2) that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm. (3) So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"**

Holiness is preserved only when we refuse compromise. Nehemiah's resolve—"I cannot come down"—was a decision that guarded the holy boundary.

During the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81–96) the Roman Empire intensified the imperial cult. The emperor was hailed as Dominus et Deus noster—"our Lord and our God." The Book of Revelation was written in this period, and John was exiled to Patmos for the testimony of Jesus. Christians confessed, "We acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord; we cannot call any other 'Lord.'" Many were martyred for that confession. A so-called compromise was offered: "You may worship Jesus—only burn a pinch of incense to the emperor and say just once, 'The emperor is lord.'" With a single pinch of incense and a single sentence they could have saved their lives, but believers would not cross that boundary. That refusal drew the line that preserved the church's holiness.

The second test was slander and false accusation. Though they sent to him four times, urging him to come down, Nehemiah would not yield. Then Sanballat sent an open letter—meant to be read publicly—filled with slander: “You are planning to make yourself king in Judah” (v. 6). But Nehemiah answered, “No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind” (v. 8).

The purpose behind such schemes is singular: to halt the work of God.

The aim of false rumor is always to stop God’s work. God’s servants must stand in truth and holy courage.

**[Matthew 5:11–12] “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. (12) “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

When this also failed before Nehemiah’s firmness, a third test came—to stir up a spirit of fear in the workers so they would cease serving the Lord.

**[Neh 6:9] “For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, ‘Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.’ But now, O God, strengthen my hands.”**

Here a coworker named Shemaiah was deceived.

**[Neh 6:10] Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Me-hetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you.”**

But Nehemiah refused: “I will not flee.”

**[Neh 6:11] And I said, “Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!”**

With the boldness that flows from the fear of God, Nehemiah overcame fear. Only those who conquer fear can raise and keep boundaries.

After these twists and trials, the wall was completed. Scripture records the grace upon that completion.

**[Neh 6:15–16] So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. (16) And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.**

Nehemiah's obedience brought about a remarkable work in fifty-two days. And the very opponents who hindered them came to know "that our God had done this work." What a glorious outcome! May every work in our church end in the same confession.

Ultimately, the true evidence of restoration is that glory returns to God, not man. Holy boundaries established by God are completed not by human strength but by the hand of the Lord. Thus Solomon wrote:

**[Psalm 127:1] "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain; unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."**

### Application and Commitment

We need "walls" in our own lives.

1. Doctrinal/faith boundaries: a faith that does not compromise the truth.
2. Relational boundaries: spiritual distance that cuts off the influence of sin.
3. Heart boundaries: giving more ear to the Word than to the noise of the world.

The wall is not about “rejection” but about “protection.”

1. It is the fence of love that preserves the holiness belonging to God.

2. It is the boundary that guards worship and the Word.

Those who build holy boundaries are always awake in prayer.

1. Remember Nehemiah’s prayer: “O God, now strengthen my hands” (Neh 6:9).

2. A wall without prayer soon collapses.

## Conclusion

We must rebuild the fence of holiness. After worship and the Word are restored, boundaries must be raised. God speaks to us even today: “You shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples” (Lev 20:26). Let us pray that holy walls be raised again over our homes, our church, and our community.

## Prayer Points (holding today’s Word)

A. God, rebuild the broken boundaries of my life.

B. Set me to stand in faith—not in fear or compromise.

C. Keep our church from losing its light by building a wall of holiness.

D. Lord, strengthen our hands as a community (Neh 6:9).