Sermon: Restore the Walls ***January 15, 2023***

 Nehemiah 2: 11-20; John 1: 35- 42

As we read Nehemiah’s book about the walls of Jerusalem that were burned by the fire. Nehemiah was concerned about the building of the Lord. It was a special place where people came to read Moses ‘law; People met with God in the holy temple to worship him and present their requests to God. But the temple was destroyed by the enemies who did not want the Jews together and worship God. Today our church has the same plan; it is a place we come to worship and praise God. But the enemy of Satan does not want the church people to gather; he is trying in different ways to destroy people’s faith with division and discrimination. Satan is making every effort to destroy the holy temple of God.

Throughout Nehemiah’s book, he cares passionately for God’s people. He is distressed when they are not doing well. Every time Nehemiah would have the information of his people who were in Jerusalem and know about God’s temple. When he heard that Jerusalem’s gates and walls were burned, he fasted and prayed to God for mercy on his people. After Nehemiah’s prayer, he searched for the solution and encouraged people to stand up and take action. V17, Nehemiah said:

I want any of you to ask yourself: how do you feel when many churches are emptied and closed because of financial issues, and the young people are no longer involved? Here, in our Iowa conference in Iowa, every year, the bishop’s cabinet locks the churches because of the low attendance

* 1: 1-3 Nehemiah wanted to hear the news of his church
* 1: 4-5 Because of the bad news, Nehemiah prayed and fasted to God for

 mercy

* 1: 5-11: confessing the sin of his people

 : Reminded God’s promises for his people

 : Invited God to help them and strengthen them to rebuild the

 Temple.

* 2: 1-4 God heard Nehemiah’s prayer, and the King’s heart was touched to

 Support him through the process.

 : what can I do for you, King asks Nehemiah?

 : the benefit of prayer. Jonas 3: 6-10; Esther 3: 12-16

* 2: 5-8 Nothing is impossible through prayer. Luke 1: 37; 18: 27

Nehemiah 2: 17-20. Nehemiah invited flocks to join in the project. **“You can see the trouble we’re in. Jerusalem Has been destroyed. Fire has burned up its gates. Come on. Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Then people won’t make fun of us anymore”.** Today, some of our brothers and sisters accept serving God in different positions in the church. It is an excellent choice to serve God. the church is waiting for your leadership. Thank you for accepting God’s call. A good example we may follow is the one of Nehemiah: Love your position, be visible in the meeting, and use your talents for God. Amen.