

SERMON NOTES

Pastor David Nitz, Guest Preacher
11/16/25



AFFIRMATIONS FROM THE HEART OF JESUS coupled with practical hands-on Holy Spirit guidance fully emanated from today's music: *Jesus Hears; You are Accepted; Steadfast, You Have Been By My Side a Thousand Times; All of My Days You Walk With Me; You Walk Me Out of the Place Where Shadows Tread*. The lyrics were profound. The words impacted our hearts deep inside. Once again, God had us where we needed to be. Miracles were about to happen but not just yet. More preparation was needed. God was having His way with us. All we needed to do was lean into His heart. And, as we stood there, the Holy Spirit prompted us to fully engage with today's message, a somber one, a shocking one, words which would impel us to get involved, see reality, and get moving forward in mission together.

As we received one statistic after another regarding human trafficking, how insidious it is, how even the young are preyed upon and used, we could see that even in the midst of such chaos and depravity, there is hope and a call to the brokenhearted, where places like CCO with people whose hearts are filled with Jesus can literally make a difference. More music, encouraging music lifted our hearts, moving us to the power of hope: *Praise to the God of Awakening; Come to Your Freedom; It's Time to Rise; Dry Bones Will Come Back to Life; Your Church is Coming Awake; We'll See Your Face; We'll See Your Face; We'll Sing Your Praise; We'll Finally Have Sight; You Have All Authority; I Declare I Am Free in the Mighty Name*

*of Jesus; The Cross Has Sealed My Destiny; I Will Not Fear When the Enemy is Near; I Am Protected on All Sides By The Blood of Jesus; **ON THE DOORFRAME OF MY LIFE IS THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST!***

“Never underestimate your smiles!” said Pastor David. There is power in how we choose to engage with others. For example, Pastor David’s wife Amy and our own Pastor Paul are of *like spirits* and their humor, shared or otherwise, never goes unnoticed! “Paul is like family!” announced Pastor David. He was setting the stage for an amazing look at reality and the impressive work of **M** (MEN) **O** (OPPOSING) **S** (SEX) **T** (TRAFFICKING). First, we dig into God’s Word:

Philippians 4:13 BSB

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Currently on the **MOST website** there is a list of shocking statistics upon which Pastor David expanded as he led us to explore Nehemiah 4:

28M people are being trafficked globally right now—more than ever in history.

- 132M child sexual exploitation incidents have been reported in the U.S. since 1998, the majority of them being toddlers.
- 1% of child sex trafficking victims are identified.
- +95% of people buying illegal sex are men.
- 20-25% of men have purchased illegal sex.
- The average age a victim begins being trafficked for sex: 12.
- \$99B was spent on illegal sex last year.
- In one study, 84% of child survivors said they wanted help when they were being trafficked (and that the majority of them were in school).
- Pornography is the 3rd-most common form of sex trafficking, after escort services and illicit massage businesses.
- A person who watches porn contributes to sex trafficking.

Again, we were invited to turn to Scripture for **guidance** and **reflection**.

After I had made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

INSIGHT: Nehemiah 4 describes how the Jews faced opposition while rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, first through mockery from enemies like Sanballat and Tobiah, and then through a planned violent attack. In response, Nehemiah's people worked with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other, while also being guarded day and night, demonstrating a combination of faith-filled prayer, unity, and practical vigilance.

Opposition from enemies

- Nehemiah's enemies, led by Sanballat and Tobiah, mocked the rebuilding effort, ridiculing the Jews' work and predicting the walls would collapse.
- The opposition escalated into a conspiracy for a violent attack against Jerusalem.

Response and rebuilding

- Nehemiah's immediate reaction was to pray for God's intervention.
- The people continued working with strong unity and determination, completing the wall to half its height.
- Nehemiah organized the workers to be vigilant, with half armed while the other half worked.
- Workers carried a weapon in one hand and their building tool in the other, and guards were posted day and night to ensure safety.

Nehemiah Chapter 4 describes the opposition faced by the Jews as they rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem and their response of combining prayer with practical vigilance and hard work. In today's message, the actions described in Nehemiah 4 easily became guidance in what we must fully include in our lives as we combat the enemy.

Key Events:

- **Mockery and Ridicule** (Nehemiah 4:1-3): Sanballat and Tobiah mocked the Jews' rebuilding efforts, calling them "feeble Jews" to discourage them.
- **Nehemiah's Prayer and the People's Resolve** (Nehemiah 4:4-6): Nehemiah prayed for God to address the contempt, and the people continued working with determination, completing the wall to half its height.
- **Threat of Violence** (Nehemiah 4:7-12): The enemies plotted a surprise attack as the gaps in the wall closed, causing fear among the Jewish workers.
- **Prayer and Preparedness** (Nehemiah 4:13-15): Nehemiah placed armed guards, organized the people with weapons, and encouraged them to remember God and fight for their families and homes.
- **Armed Laborers and Constant Vigilance** (Nehemiah 4:16-23): With the enemy plot exposed, the work resumed. Half the men worked while the other half guarded. Builders worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and a trumpeter was ready to sound the alarm. Everyone remained vigilant, staying in Jerusalem overnight fully prepared for an attack.

Chapter 4 highlights ***balancing faith and action***, trusting in God while taking practical measures. It demonstrates perseverance, unity, and strong leadership in the face of opposition while doing God's work.

THINGS WE CAN DO TO **COMBAT** SEX TRAFFICKING

1. **DO SOMETHING.** (ACTIVATE)

- Matthew West's song, Do Something, starts with the narrator questioning why God doesn't act, and God responds that He created humans to act. The chorus is a call to action: ***"If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now, it's time for us to do something"***.
- Here are the *online* lyrics to Do Something!

[Verse 1]
I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now

Thought, how'd we ever get so far down
How's it ever gonna turn around
[So I turned my eyes to Heaven](#)

[I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"](#)

Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty
Children sold into slavery
The thought disgusted me
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, "God, why don't You do something?"

[He said, "I did. I created you"](#)

[\[Chorus\]](#)

If not us, then who
If not me and you
Right now, it's time for us to do something
If not now, then when
Will we see an end
To all this pain
[It's not enough to do nothing](#)
[It's time for us to do something](#)
[Verse 2]
[I'm so tired of talking](#)

[About how we are God's hands and feet](#)
[But it's easier to say than to be](#)
[Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves](#)

It's alright, "somebody else will do something"
Well, I don't know about you
But I'm sick and tired of life with no desire
I don't want a flame, I want a fire
I wanna be the one who stands up and says
"I'm gonna do something"

[Chorus]

[\[Bridge\]](#)

[We are the salt of the earth](#)
[We are a city on a hill](#)
But we're never gonna change the world
By standing still
No we won't stand still
No we won't stand still
No we won't stand still

GOD, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING? I DID! I CREATED YOU!

- The main question for each of us is: **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?**
- In Nehemiah the enemy shows up. He hates and doesn't fight fair.
- The enemy wants to entirely discourage folks from God's mission.
- Do NOT be afraid of the enemy!
- Our homes and families are at stake!
- Precisely how do we combat the enemy effectively?

2. YOU NEED TO SEE IT (REALITY / CRISIS)

- Let's be real!
- When you stumble upon something which needs fixing, what do you do?
- Do you say: *Oh, I wish something could be done with that?*
- Or, on another note: *Oh, I wish Walt Disney could see this now!*
- The reality is that, yes, Walt did see, WDW's mission and its *pitfalls!*
- We need to be sensitive to what's going on around us, in our family, our neighborhood, our city and world.
- We need to proceed unafraid.
- We need to be involved.
- We need to make a difference!

3. **YOU NEED TO SAY IT** (SPEAK UP!)

- Be sensible enough to say: *We're having trouble here!*
- Put a plan into motion!
- Do you want to QUIT before you START?
- BE HONEST about what situation stands before you.
- Nehemiah looks clearly at the destroyed wall around the city.
- Nehemiah says: ***WE CAN BUILD THIS WALL!***
- Speak to yourself as well as others.

4. **YOU HAVE TO START IT** (REQUIRES FULL INVESTMENT)

- If something is in your heart to do, starting can be tough!
- We are fighting for our families.
- We are fighting for our legacy.
- You have to build up (training) as you prepare to start!
- Remember, you will have to ***combat the enemy*** at some point.

HAVE A TOOL IN ONE HAND AND A WEAPON IN THE OTHER!

5. **YOU HAVE TO SPEND IT** (WHAT WE DO COSTS)

- Nehemiah 4:15-17 BSB
- ***When our enemies heard that we were aware of their scheme and that God had frustrated it, each of us returned to his own work on the wall. [16] And from that day on, half of my servants did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers stationed themselves behind all the people of Judah [17] who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried materials worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other.***
- Somebody has to pay the price!
- This is our journey; it costs!
- God ALWAYS and in all ways shows up when what we do is to His Glory.

6. **REMEMBER TO SURRENDER TO GOD** (HIS WILL, NOT OURS)

- Surrender the crisis back to God.
- Say: ***God, I can't do this without You!***
- We are often overloaded and overwhelmed.
- If we are not all committed, nothing we do will work!
- Be QUIET to receive direction from the Lord Himself!

FOUR KEYS TO COMBAT THE ENEMY

1. Find your passion.
2. Start praying.
3. Be prepared.
4. Land the plan.

*We don't want to leave any potential for success on the table. Ever. We must way down deep inside say: **I'm gonna do something about this!** Personal change or addressing any crisis or problem. **Is God calling you to do something?** I sense a sweet spirit in this place!"* said Pastor David. *Thank you, Lord, for this house where change is possible, for families, marriages, vocational issues, and making decisions. It's all about You, Lord, in the first place.* With this, there followed an invitation.

This morning make a commitment to Christ. Step up. Step down, now. Join me. I want to pray for you! A prayer of faith, confession and repentance. Pray with me now! Repeat after me. Be the Lord of my life. I know what it means to be overwhelmed by the enemy. I acknowledge the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit, Lord.

And, once again, God captured our hearts and lives completely, not only in today's awesome message, but the way in which God had called us closer together than ever before. A deep unity which now entirely filled us with His mission. Yes, the fullness of God's blessing came wondrously upon us all, as His splendid Light pierced every heart. Yes, there is hope, dear friends, there is always hope. Our hope is in Jesus Christ alone. Hallelujah!

Today's concluding song fully expressed today's message in the lyrics of **CHRIST, BE MAGNIFIED IN ME:**

Were creation suddenly
articulate
With a thousand tongues to lift
one cry
Then from North to South and
East to West
We'd hear Christ be magnified

Were the whole Earth echoing
His eminence
His name would burst from sea

and sky
From rivers to the mountain
tops
We'd hear Christ be magnified

Oh! Christ be magnified
Let His praise arise
Christ be magnified in me
Oh! Christ be magnified
From the altar of my life
Christ be magnified in me

When every creature finds its
inmost melody
And every human heart its
native cry
Oh then in one enraptured
hymn of praise
We'll sing Christ be magnified
Oh, be lifted high, Jesus

Oh! Christ be magnified
Let His praise arise

Christ be magnified in me
Oh! Christ be magnified
From the altar of my life
Christ be magnified in me

I won't bow to idols, I'll stand
strong and worship You
And if it puts me in the fire, I'll
rejoice 'cause You're there too
I won't be formed by feelings, I
hold fast to what is true
If the cross brings
transformation then I'll be

crucified with You
'Cause death is just the
doorway into resurrection life
And if I join You in Your
suffering, then I'll join You
when You rise
And when You return in glory
with all the angels and the
saints
My heart will still be singing,
my song will be the same

Oh! Christ be magnified
Let His praise arise
Christ be magnified in me
Oh! Christ be magnified
From the altar of my life
Christ be magnified in me

Oh! Christ be magnified
Let His praise arise
Christ be magnified in me
Oh! Christ be magnified

From the altar of my life
Christ be magnified in me



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