
FAITH AND DILIGENCE



WHAT IS FAITH?

- complete trust or confidence in someone or something
- derived from Latin *fides* and Old French *feid*, is confidence or trust in a person, thing, or concept.
- *emunah* - is an action oriented word meaning "support"
- the action on the one who "supports God". It is not a knowing that God will act, but rather I will do what I can to support God.
- Hebrews 11:1 || Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

WHAT IS DILIGENCE?

- our words in Hebrew that carry the English word diligence as one of its meanings
- *Mishamar* careful and persistent work or effort:
- *Charitsuit* which is a diligence, or careful and persistent work with a specific skill.
 - a carpenter who is diligently applying his skills in his trade
- *Hatamadah* which is being diligent in the sense of enduring
 - This would be applied to someone on a difficult journey or performing a difficult task.
- *Shaqidah*, this is a diligence in just doing a good job and performing a task to the best of one's ability.

2 COR. 6:3-4

- ³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

1 COR. 15:58

- ⁵⁸ So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless

HEBREWS 12: 1-3

- **12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

JAMES 1:2-4

- ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

KING LEMUEL'S DESCRIPTION PROVERBS 31:10-30



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE SLOTHFUL?



6 SIGNS OF SLOTHFULNESS

- 1. The slothful sluggard desires, and has nothing Prov. 21:25-26
- 2. The slothful sluggard refuses to labor. Proverbs 21:25
- 3. The slothful man starts but doesn't finish. Proverbs 12:27, Proverbs 24:30-34
- 4. The slothful sluggard loves to sleep. Proverbs 19:15, Proverbs 6:6-11
- 5. The slothful man is full of excuses. Proverbs 20:4, Proverbs 22:13
- 6. The slothful man doesn't make progress. Proverbs 15:19 Proverbs 18:9

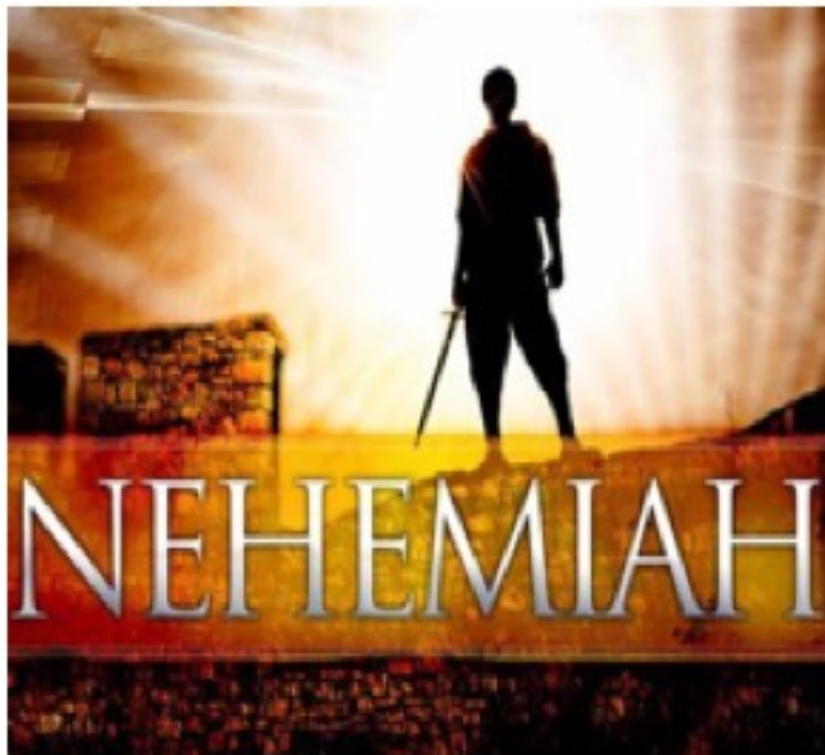
MATTHEW 25 PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS & PARABLE OF THE TALENTS



MAKE THE DAYS COUNT MATTHEW 24:36-50



THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH



Objective: Faith and Diligence go hand in hand when trying to complete the work of the Lord.

- I. We will talk about God's purpose
- II. What integrity and diligence will show in the world.
- III. The devil will try to ensnare you.
- IV. How your diligence pays dividends
- V. How we must stay diligent in our spiritual walk.

I. GOD GIVES YOU PURPOSE NEHEMIAH 1:2-4

Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many days*; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

I. SHOW INTEGRITY AND DILIGENCE NEHEMIAH 2: 1-4

2 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King ^[a]Artaxerxes, *when wine was before him*, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. ² Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you *are not sick*? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.”

So I became ^[b]dreadfully afraid, ³ and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, *lies waste*, and its gates are burned with fire?”

⁴ Then the king said to me, “What do you request?”

So I prayed to the God of heaven.

I. SHOW INTEGRITY AND DILIGENCE NEHEMIAH 2: 5-7

⁵ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

⁶ Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “How long will your journey be? And when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

⁷ Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors *of the region* beyond ^[c]the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,

II. SHOW INTEGRITY AND DILIGENCE NEHEMIAH 2: 5-7

- What you do on a daily basis says a lot to people around you about who you are.
- Pray to God constantly for boldness and wisdom.
- You don't have to announce everything that you are doing?
- God will give you the means to endure.

III. THERE WILL BE OBSTACLES NEHEMIAH 4: 7-9

⁷ Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the ^[a]gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, ⁸ and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion. ⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

III. THERE WILL BE OBSTACLES NEHEMIAH 5: 1-3

And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. ² For there were those who said, “We, our sons, and our daughters *are* many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live.”

³ There were also *some* who said, “We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine.”

III. THERE WILL BE OBSTACLES NEHEMIAH 6:10

¹⁰ Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who *was* a secret informer; and he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the [a]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.”

III. OUR RESPONSE NEHEMIAH 6:3, 6:9

- Don't give in to distraction- 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?"
- Pray About it ⁹ For they all *were trying to* make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, *O God*, strengthen my hands

IV. YOUR DILIGENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS

- Nehemiah 6: 15 –The wall is finished in 52 days.
- Nehemiah 7- Exiles return to Jerusalem. Gifts and treasure are brought back into the city. (Restoration)
- Nehemiah 8- Scriptures are being read and people are understanding. Celebrations and festivals occur.
- Nehemiah 9- People confess their sins. Prayer and worship happen.

V. WARNING: YOU MUST STAY DILIGENT IN YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK

- Nehemiah 13-
 - Enemy is nestled in the home.
 - People forgot to keep the sabbath holy
 - Foreign cultures creep in.
- CONFRONT SIN! BEAT IT OUT! Nehemiah 13:25
- Pray!

CONCLUSION

- Find Your Purpose.
- Make diligence part of your character.
- Confront obstacles in your life.
- Let diligent prayer and faith be the vehicle to a victorious life.