

**Topic** - Make Your Life Count  
**Passage** - Nehemiah 7:1-73

**Date** - 28 June 2020  
**Speaker** - Pastor Dinah Lee

---

## WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

---

## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Lord, I Offer My Life
2. Making A Difference

---

## WORD [45 min]

### Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will commit to make their lives count by the testimony of their character; by their witness as a people set apart for God; and by devoting themselves fully to God's purposes.

### Sermon Summary

To make our life count, we need to commit ourselves to the things that matter to God. What matters to God are:

1. Godly character – to be faithful, God-fearing, and watchful
2. A people set apart for God – to fulfil the role He has ordained for each of us
3. Our devotion to His purposes – to give sacrificially and to respond to God's call

### Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Nehemiah chapter 7 is a transition in the Book of Nehemiah. Chapters 1-6 describe the restoration of the wall of Jerusalem while chapters 8-13 tell about the restoration of the people of Judah. Ps Dinah shows us what truly matters to God in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, and in the same way, why they also matter to us today.

#### **1. Godly Character Matters to God (vv.2-3)**

- *Faithful.* We may not all be gifted, but we can all be faithful. God will not judge us by our talents but by how faithful we are with what He has given us. (See 1 Corinthians 4:2)

- *God-fearing.* Fear of God eliminates all other fears. When we are God-fearing, we will have the courage and conviction to serve, and by depending on Him and not on ourselves.
  - *Watchful.* We need to guard ourselves against the devil and give him no opportunity to penetrate the gates in our lives. Know what we are watching, listening, and speaking. Stay alert and be watchful of anything that may weaken our motivation to love and obey God.
- 2. A people set apart for Him matters to God (vv.6-69)**
- People matter to God. So people should matter to us
  - God has assigned us this period of time for His purposes in our sphere of influence (family, relationships, etc)
- 3. Our devotion to His purposes matter to God (vv.70-73)**
- We must see our resources not as ours, but as belonging to God. Therefore, we must use it as how God wants us to use it – for His purposes. We imprison ourselves when we make our resources our security.
  - Commitment is never about convenience.
  - Families is a vehicle God uses for the extension of His kingdom.

### Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Nehemiah 7:1-3. What did Nehemiah do when the wall was completed? Who did he put in charge and why? What qualities do you see in the people he appointed?**

#### Leaders' Notes

Nehemiah recognised that great victories can set the stage for great failures or great defeats if attention is not given to “what comes next.” He wisely realised that opposition does not cease simply because a project is completed. So, after the work was done, he placed people in strategic positions to preserve and protect what has been accomplished in building the wall. He also gave explicit instructions on the procedures to be followed to ensure the safety.

- Verse 1 – Rebuilding the wall wasn’t the end. It was the beginning. There was still work to be done. Nehemiah wanted to make sure that things would run smoothly. He wanted to make sure that things wouldn’t regress. There are times to build and there are times to preserve what has been built. Imagine how foolish it would be if after all of that work rebuilding the wall a tactical mistake allowed the enemy to come into the city and defeat them. Nehemiah continues to organise and delegate and make sure that every detail is attended to.
- He puts wise leaders in charge – He appoints leaders that he knows and trusts. He appoints leaders who fear God and are men of integrity (this is what Paul also commanded in 1 Timothy and Titus about appointing elders.)
- He sets rules for the opening and closing of the gates and appoints guards – If one gate was left open at the wrong time or if one spot was unguarded all of their work may have been done for nothing. Nehemiah understood that their achievements and past victories would not guarantee that the enemy would stop trying to destroy them. He understood that his enemy would persevere. He surveyed the wall to find the weakness to fix it before his enemies can take advantage of it.

### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Nehemiah was moving from the building project itself to steps that will ensure that what has been built will be protected and preserved.

2. **The enemy uses unguarded gates to attack us. Are you guarding your “eye gate”, your “mouth gate”, your “ear gate” and your “heart gate”? What measures do you have in place to keep yourself uncorrupted and pure in the sight of God? (See Ephesians 4:17-32)**

### Leader’s Notes

Ephesians 4:17-32 reminds us to give no opportunity to the devil to penetrate any of the “gates” above. The “eye gate” – what are we watching on our personal devices? The “mouth gate” – are our words more upsetting than uplifting? The “ear gate” – are we listening to more gossip than gospel messages? The “heart gate” – are we paying attention to anything that may weaken our desire to love and obey God? “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (Proverbs 4:23)

3. **We should be alert and aware. We should understand our weaknesses and take appropriate measures to protect ourselves from temptation in those areas. What are some examples on how you can do this?**

### Leader’s Notes

The spiritual family and biological family was key to the restoration of Israel during the time of Nehemiah. It serves as the gatekeeper for the community as well as the family. Likewise, in the spiritual family we depend on each other for accountability and spur one another on in walking in God’s ways. In the biological family, we disciple the next generation well – this will help protect them from temptations in their areas of weaknesses.

Warren Wiersbe said, "Every Christian ministry is one short generation away from destruction, and God's people must be on guard." So, both families matter.

### Closing

The key to guarding our heart is following Jesus, emulating him, and making him our role model, and journeying together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, let us all journey together, spur one another on in our faith, and watch each other’s backs on this journey!

## WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray for the following pointers:

### 1. Response to Message

- That we as believers of Christ will commit ourselves to things that matter – that our lives will count for the kingdom of God while we are here on this earth.

### 2. COVID-19 – Phase 2

- Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this season.
- Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and internationally

### 3. Elections

- Pray that as the country enters into a season of elections, that wise and godly leaders will be appointed.
  - Pray that God will be sovereign over who gets elected into the various seats.
- 

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. Bible Reading Plan.

You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting [www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp](http://www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp).

### 2. 40.day 2020 (July 1 to August 9)

40.Day prayer guide is published online at <https://lovesingapore.org.sg/40day/2020>. Prayer entries will be posted one day at a time starting today, 1 Jul. Let us join the body of Christ in Singapore in seeking the Lord! For more information, kindly visit LoveSingapore's Facebook page.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;  
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."  
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

# Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

## 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.  
Scan this QR code on the right.

**SCAN ME**



## 2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:  
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0  
Bank Code: 7171  
Branch Code: 029



### Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

### Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.

