

Study Questions for the August 23, 2020 Sermon:
“More Than Just a Number”
Nehemiah 7

1. Nehemiah assigned his brother, Hanani, as one of the two co-leaders of Jerusalem (verse 2). This may have been viewed as nepotism. What evidence do we see in this story that Hanani was indeed qualified for the position?
2. Memory Question #1: Pastor Paul stated that when leaders are searching for people that have the potential to be the next generation of leaders, they look for three qualities. Do you recall any of the qualities? (**Competent, Honorable, Sense of Calling.**)
3. By the beginning of chapter 7, Jerusalem looked imposing from the outside with freshly repaired walls and gates. But Nehemiah states in verse 4 that the city was internally weak – underpopulated and with damaged housing. Can you recall any situations in the Old or New Testament where people or organizations had a better external appearance than internal composition?
4. In verse 3, Nehemiah's actions imply that the city's inhabitants must maintain high security; limit entry into the city, and post guards internally and at the border.
 - a. Since the wall was completed, why couldn't Nehemiah relax security?
 - b. Can you extract any spiritual principle from this historical event?
5. Beginning with verse 5, Nehemiah uses a genealogy book to establish criteria for being a citizen of Jerusalem. What is the criteria for being a citizen of heaven? Support your answer with scripture.
6. Verse 5 states that God put a desire into Nehemiah's heart. When your heart desires something, how do you discern whether the desire is demonic, fleshly, or godly?
7. Why did Nehemiah treat as the people who returned from Babylon to Jerusalem as especially worthy to be citizens of Jerusalem? (**After 70 years of roots in Babylon, they chose returning, which was fraught with danger, and would surely require hard work, over the relative security of Babylon.**)