

Day 21

Sacrifice

So we built the wall and the whole wall
was joined together to half its height,
for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:6 (NASB)

Observation

Sometimes the beginning of a journey is the easiest part. Many times, as believers, we start well, but don't end well. The thing that lies between the starting line and the finishing line is a lot of sacrifice. If we want to move forward and complete the task God has given us, it is going to require sacrifice. Many have sacrificed before us. If they were here now, they would be cheering us on.

Nehemiah understood the sacrifice. In this passage they are half way finished, because the people had a mind to work. You could also put it like this: The people had a willingness to sacrifice. What God is calling us to do, individually and as a church, will require sacrifice. It will not be an easy process, but the reward on the other side is worth it. When we give something up to see God do something, we make room for other people to experience new life in Christ. During this Open: Next Chapter journey, God calls us to not only give up what is comfortable, but to give sacrificially. Your ministry or financial gift may look a lot different from your friend.

God is not asking for equal giving but equal sacrifice. If we **all** open our hearts and **let God lead**, we can truly do more than we ever thought was possible.

Application

Have you been processing this Open: Next Chapter journey through the lens of sacrifice? Many times our first response is to give God what we have **left over**, but **real** maturity understands that everything we have is God's and we need to have an open hand when He asks us to give it back. Begin to process this journey through **sacrificial** eyes.