

Message Notes

Fall Sermon series:

The Cry of the Soul of Nehemiah

Today's message:

What God had accomplished

This week: 6:15-19

The wall was completed
Nehemiah 6:15

The significance of 52 days

The nations hear and fear
Nehemiah 6:16 (cf. 4:7-8)

The two-facedness of the "nobles"
Nehemiah 6:17-19a

Tobiah continues to oppose Nehe-
miah (& the LORD)
Nehemiah 6:19b

Understanding Nehemiah in light of the Gospel Storyline

Group 1: Those who hear and fear
and lose all self-confidence

Luke 18:9-14

Group 2: Those who acknowledge
their two-facedness

1 Kings 18:21, Isaiah 29:13, Luke
9:61-62

Group 3: Those who put away their
opposition

Matthew 27:38-44

Gospel Responses

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Nehemiah 6:15-19

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. 17 Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. 18 For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. 19 Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

1 Kings 18:21

21 Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

Message Notes

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Nehemiah 6:15-19

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. 17 Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. 18 For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. 19 Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

1 Kings 18:21

21 Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

Fall Sermon series:

The Cry of the Soul of Nehemiah

Today's message:

What God had accomplished

This week: 6:15-19

The wall was completed
Nehemiah 6:15

The significance of 52 days

The nations hear and fear
Nehemiah 6:16 (cf. 4:7-8)

The two-facedness of the "nobles"
Nehemiah 6:17-19a

Tobiah continues to oppose Nehe-
miah (& the LORD)
Nehemiah 6:19b

Understanding Nehemiah in light of the Gospel Storyline

Group 1: Those who hear and fear
and lose all self-confidence

Luke 18:9-14

Group 2: Those who acknowledge
their two-facedness

1 Kings 18:21, Isaiah 29:13, Luke
9:61-62

Group 3: Those who put away their
opposition

Matthew 27:38-44

Gospel Responses

Emergency Preparedness



James

Liam

Will & Colette "Cully" Craig

THE CRY OF THE SOUL OF

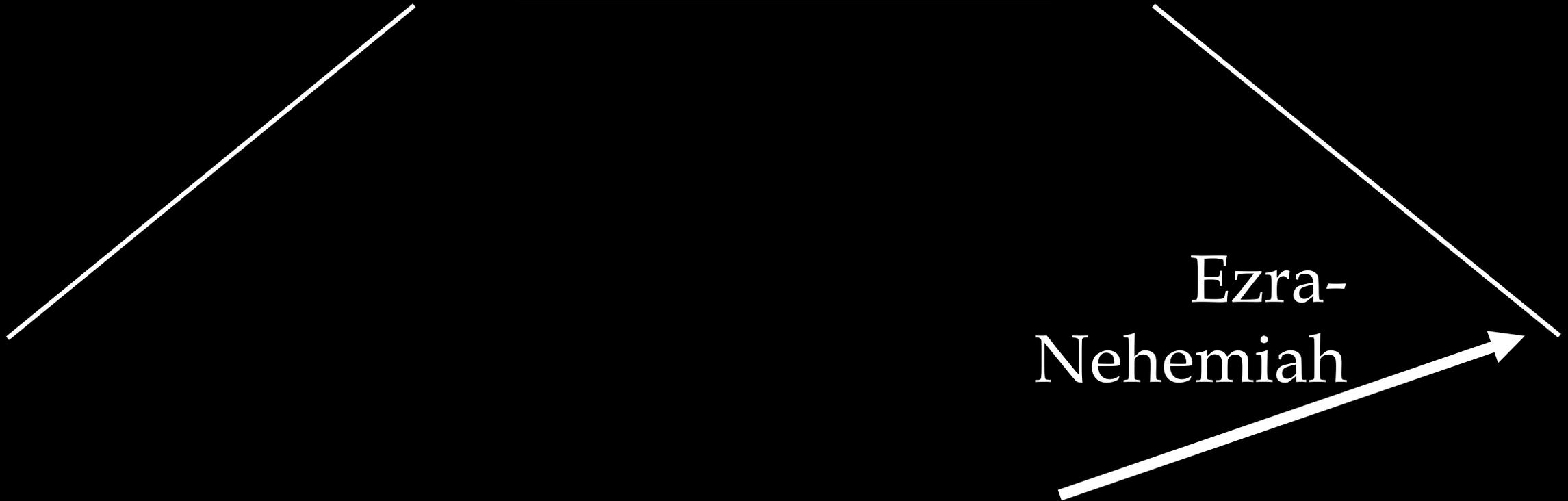
Nehemiah

The Old Testament in brief

Abraham

David

Exile



Previously in the book of Nehemiah

This week's message:

What God has accomplished

hopecc.com/slides & hopecc.com/notes

Nehemiah 6:15-19

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

The wall was completed

Nehemiah 6:15

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶

When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Is there significance to 52 days?

- The recording of history

Is there significance to 52 days?

- The recording of history
- The recording of theological history

Is there significance to 52 days?

- The recording of history
- The recording of theological history
- The recording of prophetic history

The nations hear and fear

Nehemiah 6:16

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

The nations hear and fear

Nehemiah 6:16

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of

...

Nehemiah 4:7-8

⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

The two-facedness of the “nobles”

Nehemiah 6:17-19a

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

The two-facedness of the “nobles”



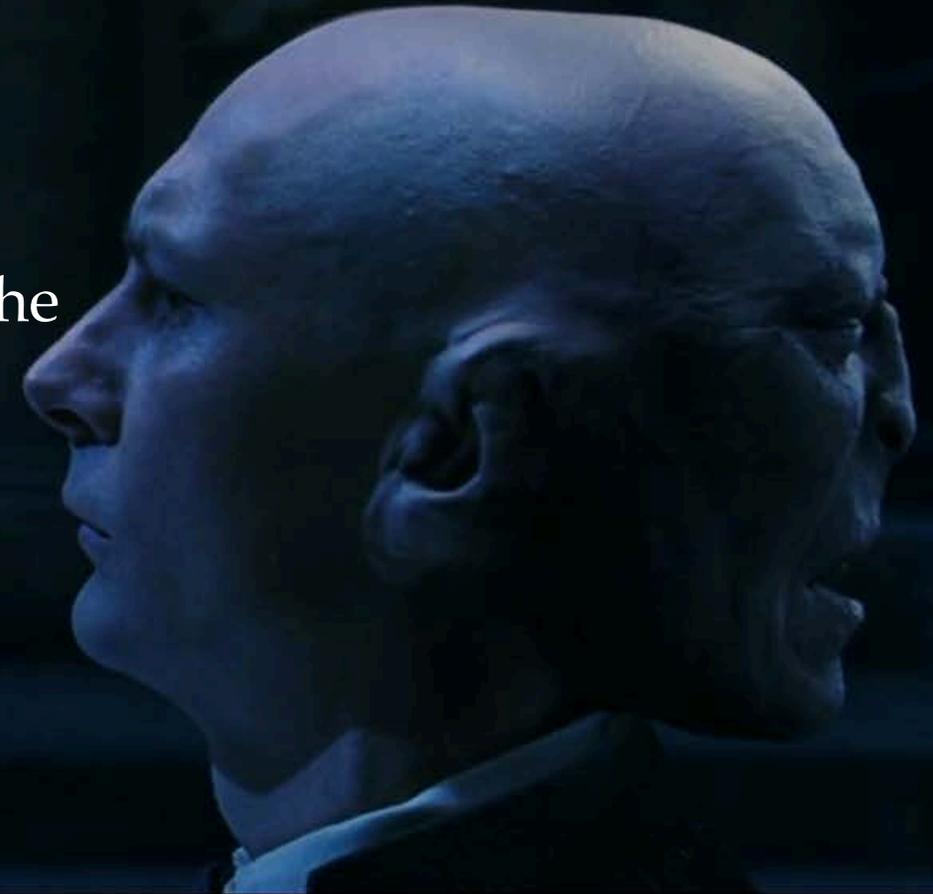
The two-facedness of the “nobles”

- The nobles are listed amongst those who would be doing the work of rebuilding the wall ~Neh. 2:16
...But the nobles of Tekoa wouldn't help with rebuilding efforts ~Neh. 3:5



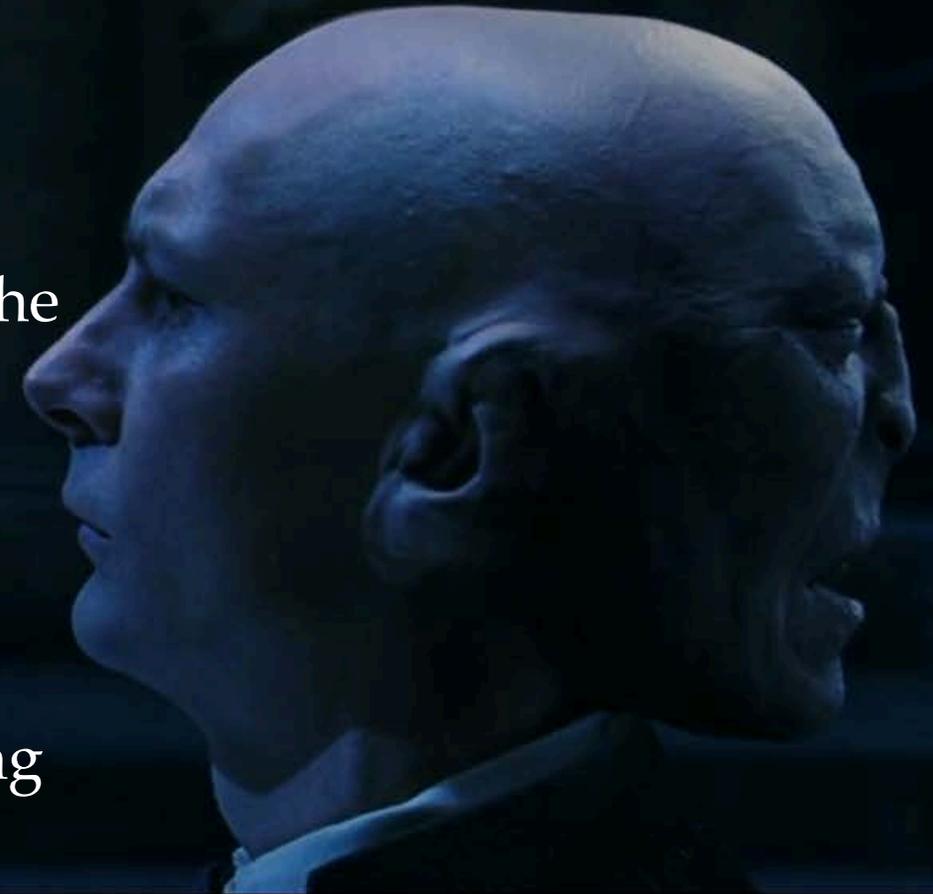
The two-facedness of the “nobles”

- The nobles are listed amongst those who would be doing the work of rebuilding the wall ~Neh. 2:16
...But the nobles of Tekoa wouldn't help with rebuilding efforts ~Neh. 3:5
- They are told to not fear the nations but remember the LORD and fight with/for their families ~Neh. 4:14
...But they were charging their Jewish brothers/sisters interest ~Neh. 5:7
...And they were engaging Tobiah ~Neh. 6:17



The two-facedness of the “nobles”

- The nobles are listed amongst those who would be doing the work of rebuilding the wall ~Neh. 2:16
...But the nobles of Tekoa wouldn't help with rebuilding efforts ~Neh. 3:5
- They are told to not fear the nations but remember the LORD and fight with/for their families ~Neh. 4:14
...But they were charging their Jewish brothers/sisters interest ~Neh. 5:7
...And they were engaging Tobiah ~Neh. 6:17
- They agree to separate themselves from “neighboring peoples” and covenant to follow the LORD and his ways ~Neh. 10:29
...Yet they are noted as desecrating the Sabbath ~Neh. 13:17



Tobiah continues to oppose Nehemiah (& the LORD)

Nehemiah 6:19b

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. **And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.**

The relationship of Tobiah toward Nehemiah

Nehemiah 2:10 - Disturbed

¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

Nehemiah 2:19 - Mock/ridicule/intimidate

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” (cf. 4:3, 6:14)

Nehemiah 4:7 - Angry

⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.

*Understanding Nehemiah in light of
the Gospel Storyline*

Understanding Nehemiah in light of the Gospel Storyline

Group 1: Those who hear and fear and lose all self-confidence

Group 2: Those who acknowledge their two-facedness

Group 3: Those who put away their opposition

Those who hear and fear and lose all self-confidence

Nehemiah 6:16

NIV When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations **were afraid and lost their self-confidence**, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

ESV And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us **were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem**, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

NLT When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they **were frightened and humiliated**. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

AV 1873 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they **were much cast down in their own eyes**: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

Those who hear and fear and lose all self-confidence

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Those who acknowledge their two-facedness

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

Those who acknowledge their two-facedness

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

Isaiah 29:13

¹³ The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

Those who acknowledge their two-facedness

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

Isaiah 29:13

¹³ The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

Luke 9:61–62

⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” ⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Those who put away their opposition

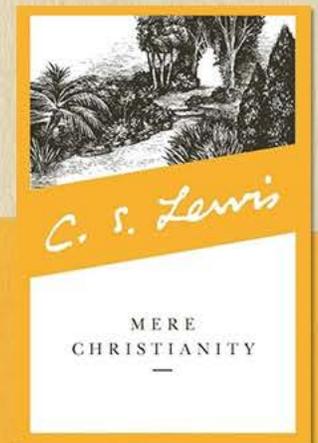
Matthew 27:38–44

³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

“Fallen (men and women) are not simply imperfect creatures who need improvement, (they) are rebels who must lay down (their) arms.”

C. S. Lewis

MERE CHRISTIANITY



God working here and now in us

Group 1: Those who hear and fear and lose all self-confidence

Group 2: Those who acknowledge their two-facedness

Group 3: Those who put away their opposition

God working here and now in us

Through what God has accomplished

Possible responses to the LORD

Remember and celebrate Jesus in his death through communion

Respond with giving and prayer

Worship the LORD through song