



NEHEMIAH

GOD REBUILDS & RESTORES

True Condition

October 20 & 21 // Bryce McFadden

Nehemiah 2:11-16; Luke 14:27-29; Psalm 139:23-24

Nehemiah 2:17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Nehemiah 2:19-20; 1 Corinthians 16:9

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS: Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time hearing and responding to Jesus this week. In your conversations with Him, describe one thing you felt Him speaking to you about.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What stood out to you in Bryce's message this weekend? Did you have any questions?

In the first half of this chapter, Nehemiah acted with confidence based on the fact that his dealings with the king had been prepared for by the prayer of chapter one. The second half of the chapter provides a complete contrast with this: Nehemiah has now moved into the unforeseen, and his activity is marked accordingly by a greater reserve and diffidence. His first recorded activity on arrival in Jerusalem is therefore to take a hard look at the difficulties of the task in hand in order to make a realistic appraisal of its demands. This he does secretly, in the privacy of the night. There is something affecting about this man of action, so assured of his vocation, nevertheless refraining from speaking of his proposals until he has engaged physically with the enormity of the task and no doubt prayerfully counted the cost of proceeding (see Luke 9:57-62; 14:28-32) - H.G.M. Williamson, Word Biblical Commentary

MY PERSPECTIVE: Are there any un-finished projects around your home that you've been living with for a while?

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction... (1 Corinthians 10:11)

DIGGING DEEPER: It can be intimidating to think about rebuilding when we've experienced repeated failure. Is there a weakness or brokenness in your life that discourages you because of a history of defeat? If so, describe.

Come, let us build the wall...(Nehemiah 2:17)

Read the following verses: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26; Galatians 6:2-3. Describe some of the personal spiritual rebuilding/growth that can only happen when we rely on each other instead of isolating.



Every church that seeks the kingdom must break walls and build walls. And the walls we build are not the walls that sometimes the church has built—walls to isolate us and insulate us, walls to intimidate others, walls that forbid the least of these to enter. Walls that keep Rahab out. Walls that reinforce our Jonah contempt...Mike's church is called *The Forge*. *The Forge* has created an atmosphere in which anyone can belong. They openly talk about being a church for the 95 percent, a phrase that represents the percentage of nonchurchgoers in their area. People who come with broken lives are embraced. Here's an example. Cobbs Bread opened a local bakery in *The Forge's* community...Every day Cobbs stores have bread to spare, bread left over. Most bakeries throw their surplus away. Not Cobbs. They give all their surplus away, every day to organizations in their community. *The Forge* set up a system two days a week to retrieve the surplus and then give it all away. They take bread to single moms, seniors, neighbors. Few of these people go to *The Forge*, at least not when they first start getting the bread. There are no strings attached. There are no Bible verses attached or tracts inserted in the bread bag. It's just giving bread, really good bread. And many of these people wake up one day and realize that in the Father's house, in Mike's church, at *The Forge*, there is food to spare. And so they make the journey to the place from where the bread came, and find there a God who runs to greet them, calls them sons and daughters, puts robes and sandals on their feet, rings on their fingers, and who has fatted calves awaiting the barbeque. *The Forge* has removed walls that isolate and separate. They've built walls that bless and protect.—Mark Buchanan, *Your Church is too Safe*

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem heard it, they jeered at us and despised us...(Neh. 2:19)

MY RESPONSE: Read Hebrews 12:11-12 & 1 Peter 4:12-13. There's no easy, lazy, or cheap way to do God's will. Opposition and challenge are part of the package. Describe one area of personal rebuilding where you can especially feel opposition from the enemy or resistance from your sinful nature.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you" (1 Cor. 12:21)

Bryce talked about the importance of cooperation in rebuilding. We can do more together than apart! Is there a way you could more fully partner with other believers to strengthen your spiritual life? Describe.

