

# BUILD OR REBUILD

## JUNE 7, 2020

### NEHEMIAH 2:11-20

Three rules to effective study: what did it mean then; what does it mean today; and how can I apply it to my life? Nehemiah was commissioned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem that were fallen, leaving God's people defenseless. These verses reveal certain truths we can use today to build or rebuild a life, a family, a business or a church. To our graduates – practices that can help you build the life God wants you to have.

#### 1. Focus. V11-12

- A. His focus was on what God said to do. He took three days to evaluate the damage to determine what needed done.
- B. **LUKE 6:46** A wise man will focus on what God's Word teaches and build his life on that, not on what he wants.
- C. Nehemiah got his vision from God. He was full of faith, wisdom, and heart, because he sought God's will for his life.
- D. God doesn't want us driven by the winds of uncertainty. He has a plan and purpose for everyone. One that's better than ours.
- E. Jerusalem's walls stood for two important things: keeping what's evil out and keeping what's good and God in.
- F. Nehemiah didn't just focus on what was good in Jerusalem. Like Nehemiah, God shifted my focus from what was good, to what He had for me to do. He'll do the same for everyone.

#### 2. Find. V13-15

- A. Nehemiah wanted to count the cost of what needed done. He had to find the facts.
- B. **LUKE 14:28-30** There's always a cost – a price to pay for building or rebuilding anything. This includes our personal lives, our family, business or church.
- C. **PROVERBS 25:28** Jerusalem's walls were physical. Today, ours are spiritual. Building a life takes faith, love, heart, vision, and prayer. It takes courage and fortitude to withstand the opposition that will come our way. If these walls fall, we become vulnerable to the enemy. **LUKE 6:46-48**

#### 3. Friends. V17

- A. Building our rebuilding anything requires help. He knew he couldn't do it alone. He needed help from God and people.
- B. There's power in unity: easier to achieve goals (**GENESIS 11:6**); makes a highway for God to move (**ACTS 4:24, 31-33**); erects walls the enemy can't penetrate (**ECCLESIASTES 4:12**).
- C. **PROVERBS 1:7-9** It all starts with parents, teachers, Jesus!

#### 4. Faith. V18

- A. It pays to have a history with God. He reviewed his past in order to face his future. David did likewise: lion, bear, then giant. Has God's hand been good upon us at any time?
- B. The people were doubtful because the walls were in ruins for 100 years, and attempts to fix them always failed.
- C. Nehemiah pointed them to the end result: "that we may no longer be a reproach." It wasn't about brick and mortar, it was about removing reproach – the shame, doubt, fear, insecurity.
- D. David saw what the entire Israeli army failed to see. **1 SAMUEL 17:25-27** "Reproach" Goliath was shaming and disgracing them and David set out to remove it. David's walls were built.

#### 5. Foes. V19

- A. There will always be opposing forces to deal with. These men were Jews who opposed the work of God. **NEHEMIAH 2:10** Opposition is difficult, but when it comes from brothers, it brings the pain of betrayal as well.
- B. Tobiah means "Yahweh is good" – a funny name for an opponent of God's work.
- C. Sanballat and Tobiah used scorn to make Nehemiah feel foolish and mocked. Our opponent wants us to feel foolish for living the way God wants us to live. Many a Christian have turned away from God's will for this reason, not Noah!

#### 6. Fulfillment. V20

- A. Nehemiah wasn't moved by the opposition. His finishing the project was not because of who he was, but because of who his God is – creator of heaven and earth. **PSALMS 37:5**
  - He will protect us, provide what we need, and we will complete the task because we serve Him and trust Him, not ourselves.
- B. Nehemiah wasn't moved by their scorn. He was more aware of God being for them. **ROMANS 8:31, ACTS 4:17-19**
- C. These men opposed the work until it was done. They couldn't stop it. When finished, they had nothing to do with it.

### CONCLUSION:

Whether building or rebuilding a life, there's no possibility of failure when we practice these steps.

- Focus on what God says, find what's required; get friends to help, use faith, stand against foes, and look to God for fulfillment.