

IT TAKES EVERYONE

"Let US *arise* and *build*. So THEY put their hands to the good work." Nehemiah 2:18

SERMONIC FOCUS: The way forward is based on a deep conviction that lies in a fresh understanding of our place in God's story!

"And I told them how the Hand of my God had been favorable to me..." Nehemiah 2:8

Convictions can be contagious! They drive ACTION!!

- **Contagious** refers to the exciting similar emotions, beliefs and conduct in others
- **Contagion** is not always a bad thing. It describes something irresistible; something you can't catch, but something we have the potential to spread.

Big Idea: The way forward is based on a deep conviction that lies in a fresh understanding of our place in the story of God!

INTRO: What breaks your heart? Our faith is not for ourselves. It is not to be hoarded but spread to others! It is to be contagious! Convictions are firmly held beliefs that have been proven by biblical principles. Nehemiah's unwavering convictions are rooted in his relationship with God!

- **Your convictions are powerful and can be contagious!**

"And because the **gracious Hand** of my **God** was upon me." Nehemiah 2:8

- **Your confidence is a trait that attracts people to you** and is influenced by others who are confident in themselves and their abilities.

"Let us..." The needed changes could not be accomplished singularly! Nehemiah's goal is to encourage the people to act together with conviction, confidence, and courage!

"It takes a village" is an idiom that means 'many people must cooperate to achieve a goal

"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? Are you rebelling against the king.'*" **Nehemiah 2:19**

- **Convictions have the power to mobilize one to action! They are so powerful that they can embolden and energize others as well. e.g.**

Greta Thunberg (of the Peoples Climate Movement) is quoted as saying, "To change everything, we need everyone." **Each and every one** MUST participate in the climate resistance movement. We cannot just say we care; we must show it.

They undertook a bold strategy consisting of:

