

## Rebuilding: Moving into a New Story pt. 2

5-24-26

Mark McCartin

### I. The Rebuilder's Prayer:

Nehemiah 1:5-11

- 1. Neh 1:5-6** Nehemiah sees God as both: capable and caring
- 2. Neh 1:6-7** Rebuilding requires honesty. Nehemiah does not blame only previous generations — he includes himself.
- 3. Neh 1:8-9** God delights in restoring returning people.
- 4. Neh 1:11** Nehemiah knows he cannot rebuild in his own strength. *"God grant me favor with..."*

### II. From rubble to rebuilding.

#### Four common experiences:

#### 1. Grieving Your Losses

Healthy rebuilding begins by honestly grieving what has been lost. Nehemiah allows himself to feel sadness instead of suppressing it.

Key Takeaway: Sometimes we cannot move hopefully into the future because we have not adequately dealt with the past.

**2 Cor 7:10** *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. Godly sorrow brings God Restorative Grace*

**Mat 11:28-30**

**Ps 34:18-19** *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;*

#### 2. Moving Forward Courageously (Neh 2:1-3)

"Sadness will not rebuild that wall."

"Courage is the capacity to continue moving even through your fear."

**Vs 2** *"I was very much afraid, but I said to the king..."*

**Jos 1:9:** *"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you."*

### 3. Anticipating God's Movement

Nehemiah believes God will meet him as he moves.

The Turning Point: **vs. 5** Nehemiah quickly prays and boldly responds: *"Send me... so I can rebuild it."* Nehemiah stops merely grieving and starts volunteering himself.

Key Verse: **vs. 8** *"Because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests."*

**Isa 6:8** *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

### 4. Overcoming Obstacles

Rebuilding always involves resistance, setbacks, and endurance. Starting is not enough; you must continue moving.

Two opponents emerge:

- Sanballat
- Tobiah

This foreshadows continuing opposition throughout Nehemiah.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** Believers are called to: *"run with perseverance"*

And the ultimate example is Jesus:

- who endured the cross
- despised the shame
- persevered for "the joy set before Him"

Final Application: Jesus' endurance for us becomes the motivation for our endurance for others.

Nehemiah is

- sad, but moving
- afraid, but moving
- opposed, but moving

And underneath it all:

- trusting God
- believing God's hand is with him

**Final Challenge** "Start moving." Rebuilding begins not with perfection, but with faithful movement in dependence on God.

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