

The Story: Chapter 21
Rebuilding the Walls

Pastor Kevin Donoho
September 3, 2023

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS
SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO
SEGMENTS:

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Thought #1: God uses those who connect with others who are in pain!

Read Nehemiah 1:1-4

"The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."

It is easy to look around, see the hurt and brokenness in the world, and become overwhelmed by it.

Can you recall a time, either past or present, when you experienced this sense of overwhelm? What hurt or brokenness did you see that caused you to feel helpless in that moment?

Now read Nehemiah 1:5-6

"Then I said: Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel."

Pastor Kevin reminded us of the power of prayer in the moment. It may feel as if there is nothing you can do, but the most important thing you can do is

pray! When you see the thing or hear the thing... take it directly to God.

What do you need to carry to God as a group right now? How can you be present for one another in the pain and brokenness? Take this time to pray with and over one another as a group. Through this time of prayer, are there next steps you are sensing or hearing from Him?

Thought #2: God needs people who ride into the mess to rebuild!

It is normal to be disturbed by the rubble.

When we see the brokenness, the hurt, the damage, it is normal to be troubled by this. Even Nehemiah was.

Read Nehemiah 2:17-18

"Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So, they began this good work."

But he didn't stop there. He recognized the need and believed in the ability to rebuild. And from there, he encouraged others to join him in the good work.

Have you experienced that moment of noticing the rubble, feeling the hurt and the loss, then getting stuck in that place? Have you experienced others sitting with you in your "rubble"? What was this like for you? How have others helped you rebuild in the wake of brokenness or damage?

Consider who God has led into your life right now that you can bring this kind of hope to. Who is He calling you to bring true healing, help, and hope to? If no one comes to mind, consider praying specifically for God to open your eyes to those around you He is calling you to.

Thought #3: God uses the entire community to advance the work!

In Nehemiah Chapter 3, we see a long list of people who were on the wall, helping to rebuild. There were roles you would anticipate and others you would not. Everyone played a part!

