Building Walls, Breaking Relationships

Bible Study 6 • It's Time to Build • Nehemiah 5:1–19

Big Idea: We must never become so focused on building something for God that we neglect the people God has called us to love.

Supporting Scriptures: Galatians 6:2; James 1:19–20; John 13:35; Ephesians 4:30–32

The wall was going up, but relationships were breaking down. Nehemiah 5 reminds us that project progress is not the same as health among people.

Have you ever seen a worthwhile project or shared goal create unexpected tension? What happened?

1. Look For and Listen to Those Who Are Hurting - Nehemiah 5:1–5 and Galatians 6:2.

Families were facing hunger, debt, lost property and the forced servitude of their children. Nehemiah listened to their cries even as the rebuilding continued.

1. What struggles were the families facing?

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2. Why was it especially painful that fellow Jews were involved?

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3. What burdens might people in our congregation carry without others noticing?

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4. How can we keep ministry goals from distracting us from the people we serve?

Personal application: Think of one person who may need prayer, encouragement or practical help this week. What will you do?

2. Confront and Fix What Is Wrong with Humility - Nehemiah 5:6–13 and James 1:19–20.

Nehemiah was angry about injustice, but he considered his response before confronting the officials. He called for tangible restitution and accountability.

1. What does Nehemiah teach us about handling anger?

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2. How is respectful disagreement different from destructive division?

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3. Why is it important for leaders to examine their own conduct?

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4. Why does reconciliation sometimes require restitution, not only an apology?

Personal application: Is there a conversation you need to approach with greater humility, honesty or grace?

3. Respond With Grace and Generosity - Nehemiah 5:14–19 and Ephesians 4:30–32.

Rather than demand the governor's allowance, Nehemiah chose to spare an already burdened people. He opened his table to others and sought God's approval rather than applause.

1. What motivated Nehemiah to set aside benefits he could have claimed?

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2. How does his example challenge our understanding of leadership?

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3. What are practical ways generosity can strengthen a church family?

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4. How should God's forgiveness influence our response to people who disappoint us?

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Personal application: Choose one concrete act of generosity or grace to practice this week.

Buildings can be useful tools, but people are the mission. A healthy church is known not only by what it accomplishes, but by how its people love one another.

As our church grows and prepares for the future, what relationships and values must we intentionally protect? _____

Closing Prayer

Lord, give us eyes to see those who are hurting, wisdom to address what is wrong, and hearts marked by grace and generosity. Help us build together without losing our love for one another. Amen.