

You Don't Have to Live in the Rubble

Central Question: What conditions in your life have you simply gotten used to that God wants to rebuild?

Key Scripture: Nehemiah 4:17 "Those who built the wall and those who bore burdens loaded themselves. Every one with one of his hands did he work, and with the other he held his weapon."

I. The Historical Setting: When Life Falls Apart

- Babylon destroyed Jerusalem's walls (39 feet high, 10-15 feet wide, 2.5-4 miles around)
- 150+ years of living in ruins and rubble
- People scattered, living in fear without protection

The Problem: *What we can get used to living with*

II. The Danger of "Getting Used to It" Personal

Examples:

- Living in messy, chaotic conditions
- Accepting dysfunction as normal

Spiritual Applications:

- Getting used to living with oppression
- Getting used to living with depression
- Getting used to living with hate, anger, and frustration
- Getting used to staying small and not prospering

Key Insight: *If you get used to living in it, you don't pay any attention to it.*

III. Nehemiah's Heart and Vision

A. The Burden

- Nehemiah hears about Jerusalem's condition
- 4 months of prayer and fasting
- Heartbroken for his people's situation

B. The Investigation

- Night ride around the city to assess damage
- Seeing the reality firsthand
- Planning for restoration

C. The Declaration *"I know you are used to living in rubble, but we're not going to live in rubble anymore."*

IV. Facing Opposition While Rebuilding

A. The Enemies

- Sanballat the Samaritan - represents those who don't want you to prosper
- Negativity and discouragement from others
- *"You got an enemy that wants you to live in rubble"*

B. The Solution

- One hand working (building)
- One hand holding a weapon (defending)

Modern Application: The Word of God both builds and defends

V. The Miracle: 52 Days The Impossible Made Possible:

- Massive construction project completed in 52 days
- *"When God's behind something, you can't stop it"*
- *"When God's in the mix, you can't stop it"*

The Result:

- City made safe and secure
 - People could sleep peacefully at night
 - Protection from raiders and enemies
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VI. Personal Application: Are You Living in Rubble?

Questions for Self-Examination:

- Is your life in rubble? Is it a mess?
- Have you just gotten used to it?
- What broken patterns are you accepting as normal?

Common Areas of "Rubble":

- Broken relationships (from past or family patterns)
- Addiction patterns from family history
- Fear of commitment due to past hurt
- Financial struggles accepted as permanent

The Hope: *"You may be from a broken relationship, but that doesn't mean you have to have broken relationships."*

Key Takeaways:

- God doesn't want you to live in rubble
- You have work to do in building His kingdom
- Rebuilding requires both building and defending
- God accelerates the process when you align with His purposes
- There are people in your community who need to know they don't have to live "that way"

For Further Reflection:

- What "rubble" in your life have you simply accepted?
- What tools do you have in one hand for building?
- What weapons (God's Word) do you have in the other for defending?
- Who in your community needs to hear that they don't have to live in their current condition?

Scripture References for Further Study: Nehemiah 1-6 | Psalm 127:1 | Ephesians 6:17 | Isaiah 61:3-4