



Die to Self

September 27, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: Nehemiah 8:1–12, Nehemiah 13:4–9, Romans 6:3–4, Acts 2:37–38

Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt, but God's work wasn't finished. The people needed something deeper than a repaired city—they needed renewed hearts. That renewal began as they heard God's Word and responded to what He revealed.

Understand the Moment

When Ezra read Scripture, the people listened, worshiped, confessed, and obeyed. God's Word exposed what needed to change within them.

Later, however, compromise returned. A temple storeroom dedicated to God was given to Tobiah, one of Nehemiah's opponents. Nehemiah responded by clearing the room and restoring it to its intended purpose.

It's a picture of spiritual renewal: **God doesn't simply want to repair our exterior. He wants every room of our hearts surrendered to Him.**

Process Together or Alone

- What's the difference between appearing spiritually healthy and actually being transformed?
- What stands out about the people's response to Scripture in Nehemiah 8?
- When God's Word reveals something that needs to change, how do you typically respond?
- What “small compromises” are easiest for us to justify?
- What does baptism communicate about leaving an old life behind and beginning a new one with Jesus?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What has God been revealing to you through His Word?
- Is there an area you've been avoiding because you already know what He might say?

Obey

- What needs to be removed from your “storeroom”?
- What specific act of obedience can you take this week?

Share

- Who can you trust enough to tell what God is working on in your life?
- Who might need to hear how Jesus has been rebuilding you?

Care

- Who is struggling with something they've been afraid to bring into the light?
- How can you offer them grace, prayer, and encouragement rather than judgment?



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Live It Out

Draw a simple outline of a house.

Inside it, write the major “rooms” of your life: **relationships, work, money, sexuality, habits, entertainment, thoughts, faith, future.**

Then ask: “**Jesus, is there any room I've told You not to enter?**”

Don't try to fix everything at once. If God brings something to mind, identify **one concrete act of obedience** and take it this week.

If baptism is your next step of obedience, don't simply keep thinking about it. Talk with someone who can help you understand and take that step.

Remember: God doesn't want one room of your life. He wants to rebuild the whole house.

Pray

- Ask God to give you a genuine hunger for His Word.
- Invite Him to reveal any hidden compromise you've allowed into your life.
- Ask for courage to remove whatever is keeping you from wholehearted obedience.

I don't want to simply look changed on the outside. Search my heart and show me anything I've kept from You. Give me courage to remove what doesn't belong and obedience to respond when Your Word speaks. Thank You that Jesus doesn't merely improve my old life—He offers me new life. Rebuild me from the inside out so that every part of who I am belongs completely to You. Amen.

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

Why do you think it's sometimes easier to change what people see on the outside than to deal with what's happening inside us?

Closing Reflection:

If Jesus walked through every “room” of your life today, is there one room you'd be tempted to keep locked?