

## THE STORY CHAPTER 21

### Rebuilding the Walls

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#### Your mess is no match for God's mercy.

*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."*

*<sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> 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. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.*

*Pg. 295; Nehemiah 1:3-6*

#### REBUILDING STARTS WITH PRAYER.

*God as He often does, is working through the rulers of all nations to write His story. <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> 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.*

*Pg. 296; Nehemiah 2:17-18*

*Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"*

*Pg. 297; Nehemiah 4:3*

#### REBUILDING REQUIRES FOCUS.

*"Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; <sup>3</sup> so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"*

*Pg. 298; Nehemiah 6:2-3*

Wish you had a great project? You have. It doesn't matter if you're single, married, raising children, empty nester, rich or poor. You've been given a great project.

Because your mess is no match for God's mercy, you can know, just like Nehemiah, he will fight for you.

#### REBUILDING LEADS TO WORSHIP.

*Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worship the Lord with their faces to the ground.*

*Pg. 300; Nehemiah 8:6*

Do what Nehemiah did. Start with prayer, stay focused, and take time to worship. God was faithful to guide Nehemiah and He is the same God who will faithfully guide you.