

Vision and Opposition

Nehemiah 2-4

Rebuilding the torn down walls

- Do you have any walls that are torn down in your life?
- Did you spend too much time on the lake, river or woods this summer and not enough time with Jesus?
- Are you spending too much time at work and not enough time at home?
- Are you prioritizing your kids over your spouse?
- Are you spending more time watching the news and what is unfolding with the Charlie Kirk situation than you are in God's word?
- Are you so busy with life that you are neglecting the spiritual wall that is protecting you from outside forces that want to rob you of true life?

John 10:10 (NIV) - ¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Where's your wall at right now?

Before you rebuild you need to repent

Nehemiah 1:5-7 (NLT)

If you just try to fix your life on your own you will fail. You can't do it on your own. Doing better and trying harder is a futile endeavor, that only leads to behavior modification not heart transformation.

Psalms 127:1 (NIV) - *Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*

Before you rebuild you need to repent

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV) - ⁸ *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Chapter 2 -Nehemiah is sent out

- After getting his heart right, he then begins to get to work.
- He asks the king of Babylon, King Artaxerxes for permission to go back to Jerusalem and start rebuilding the walls.
- The king not only agrees, but he resources him so his mission will be successful.

Nehemiah 2:10 (NLT)

The enemy will be greatly displeased that you are doing what God wants you to do. When you step out in faith, when you get things in order, when you prioritize the things of God...the enemy will oppose you.

When you rebuild, expect resistance

Chapter 3 - The people get to work

Nehemiah rallies people together and he begins to delegate.

Chapter 4 - Opposition intensifies

Nehemiah 4:1-15 (NLT)

In order to rebuild you have to have grit. You have to have perseverance. You have to be able to keep pushing forward in the face of opposition.

- o Sickness
- o Discouragement
- o Relational tension
- o Busyness
- o Financial difficulties
- o Life circumstances

Proverbs 24:16a - *for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again,...*

We have to expect that we are going to go through hard things. It isn't a matter of if, but when. And when we do, we have to have the strength to get up and keep going.

James 1:2 (NIV) // Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

1 Peter 4:12 & 19 (NLT) - ¹²Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. . . .¹⁹So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

When you rebuild, expect resistance

