

Rebuild

How to start over.

Nehemiah 4:13-23

¹³ Therefore **I stationed some of the people** behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “**Don’t be afraid of them.** Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

¹⁶ **From that day on,** half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

Give Background

- Ezra and now Nehemiah
- End of Babylonian captivity.

I. You are in a process.

Nehemiah 4:6-9

⁶ So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

A. You are in a process.

B. Unpack text

1. Why did Sanballat, Tobiah, Arabs and the Ammonites become angry?
 - a. Sanballat's extreme anger over the rebuilding program suggests that the Samaritan governor assumed a degree of jurisdiction over Jerusalem—jurisdiction increasingly threatened with each course of stones the Jews add to the fortifications.
2. The enemy had taken claim to territory that rightfully belongs to God's people.
3. He started talking like, acting like, moving like Jerusalem was his.
4. He staked claim **when** there was a vacuum of leadership and representation.
5. So when God's people began to work to rebuild this was seen as a threat.

Application

- You are a threat to Darkness.
- A Spirit Filled, Active, Worshipping, Witnessing and Giving church is a treat.
- Sometimes the reason you face resistance is because you are a threat.

C. Wherever the church is advancing there will always be opposition.

1. You can expect it.
2. You can count on it.
3. You should **not** be discouraged by it.
4. You should **not** be disheartened by it.
5. When opposition rears its ugly head you should say to yourself
– Of course – this is the plan of the enemy.

Application

- He will **act like** and **talk like** the earth is his.
- He will **act like** and **talk like** your marriage is his.
- He will **act like** and **talk like** your family is his.
- He will **act like** and **talk like** your finances are his.
- He will **act like** and **talk like** governments, kingdoms are his.
- He will **act like** and **talk like** your body is his.
- He will **act like** and **talk like** your mind is his.

6. His path of destruction will follow everywhere he is present and not chased out by God's people.

D. I want you to know something – God's plan has you in a process.

1. You are in a process.
2. God's people – the church is in a process.

2 Peter 2:5-9

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

3. He is working **with you** and **shaping you** and **developing you** and **bringing you** along so that in the end **You Are Effective**.
4. God's process makes you effective.
5. God's process makes you pliable/ flexible.
6. God's process makes you humble.
7. God's process renews your mind.
8. God's process stretches you.
9. God's process gives you compassion.
10. God's process makes you more loving, more generous, more kind, more patient, more humble, more forgiving, more persevering, **MORE LIKE JESUS**.

Hebrews 5:11-14

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:1-3

Let us go forward, then, to mature teaching and leave behind us the first lessons of the Christian message. We should not lay again the foundation of turning away from useless works and believing in God; ² of the teaching about baptisms^[a] and the laying on of hands; of the resurrection of the dead and the eternal judgment. ³ Let us go forward! And this is what we will do, if God allows. (GNT)

Illustration

- Observation – this story is spread out over 80 plus years.
- 536 BC – first return under Zerubbable Altar and Temple foundation built.
- 515 BC – Temple completed
- 455 – Nehemiah returns and rebuilds wall in 52 days

- This time span is 81 years.

Application

- God wants you to have a long term view of things.
- He wants you to have a long range faith.
- He wants you to see things on the grand scale.
- The more mature the more vision you have.
- Maturity gives you the ability to see things in the grand scheme of things.
- Then you don't miss a blessing.
- You have a part and if you are willing to persevere and not give up you will see MIGHTY things.
- It's time to **move forward**.
- It's time to **grow**.
- It's time to **advance the Kingdom**.

Application

1. **How about we get back to when we were completely dependent upon the LORD.**
2. He has reminded me of how desperate and dependent I was on him at the beginning.
3. He has reminded me of the tears I shed for souls.
4. He has reminded me of the passionate pursuit of him.
5. He has reminded me of the beginning... to put fuel in the tank for the next season.
6. Recognize that you are in a process.
7. If you don't recognize that you are in a process, you will become easily
 - a. Distracted
 - b. Discouraged
 - c. Defeated
8. Stay in the process.
9. Ask God to mature you and move on from the elementary truths.

You are in a process.

II. Jesus is building his church.

This is his church.

He is the master builder.

He dictates and controls everything.

Jesus has the final say on all matters when it comes to the church.

Nehemiah 4:13-15

¹³ Therefore **I stationed some of the people** behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ After I looked

things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “**Don’t be afraid of them**. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

A. Unpack Text

1. Nehemiah knew his purpose...
2. He was sent on a mission to build... rebuild the walls.
3. Nehemiah was aware that he would have opposition.
4. Nehemiah responded to that opposition by leading.
 - a. Had a vision.
 - b. Activated and place gifted people – vs. 13a
 - c. Armed the people with what they needed for success – vs. 13b
 - d. Encouraged the people by reminding them of the power and glory of God.
(Great and Awesome)

B. **Jesus is building his church.**

1. Jesus is in the process of **activating, equipping, strengthening, refining, purifying, empowering** and **sending his church**.
2. You are in a process.
3. Jesus is in the process of building his church.
4. There will always be opposition to the building of the Church.

Matthew 16:18

I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

C. Ephesians 1 paints a picture for us. I want you to see this in your mind’s eye.

Ephesians 1:20-23

²⁰⁻²³ All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but *forever*. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. (MSG)

D. Unpack text

1. Can you see HIM? Can you picture the scene?

2. God raised him from death and set him on a throne –
3. In charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments.
4. No power is exempt from his rule.
5. Not just for time being but FOREVER.
6. He is in charge of it all and has the final word on **everything**.
7. At the center of all this Christ rules the church.
8. The church, you see is **NOT** peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church.
9. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts and fills everything with his presence.

Illustration

- **Do NOT be afraid!!!**
- Urgency
- Jesus is coming back SOON!
- When you start over you will be

Jeremiah 18:1-6

¹This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.” ³So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

E. Unpack

- We must get back on the **POTTERS WHEEL** and let him continue to do his work.

Application

You are in a process.

Jesus is building his church.

III. Jesus gives weapons and gifts to build his church.

Nehemiah 4:16-18

¹⁶From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of

Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

A. Unpack Text

1. They got a plan.
2. Half the men did the work – the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor.
3. Officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall.
4. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other.
5. Each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked.

B. Everybody had a place.

1. Everybody is gifted.
2. Everybody has a place.
3. Every job or post is important.
4. Everybody can make a difference.

C. Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-6

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

D. Unpack Text

E. Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰⁻¹² And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no weekend war that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

¹³⁻¹⁸ Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. **Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation** are more than words. **Learn how to apply them.** You'll need them throughout your life.

God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, **prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long.** Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. (MSG)

F. Weapons

- a. Truth
- b. Righteousness
- c. Peace
- d. Faith
- e. Salvation
- f. Prayer
- g. Worship
- h. Devotions
- i. Witness
- j. Declaration

Illustration

- Jesus is very serious about this

Matthew 25:25-27

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Application

1. Jesus takes this very seriously.
2. He expects a return on his investment.
3. Use your giftings and put on the armor.

You are in a process.

Jesus is building his church.

Jesus gives weapons and gifts to build his church.

Use what you have.

Nehemiah 4:19-23

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by

day.”²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

A. Unpack Text

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Illustration

- Use what you have.

Response

1. Jesus is going to anoint many of you today with gifts.
 - He is either going to give you more kinds of gifts OR
 - He is going to increase the strength, intensity and effectiveness of his gifts.
 - There is a starting over anointing.