Arise and Build: Lessons from Nehemiah Part 1 of 2

Adam Willingham · Nehemiah 2:18

INTRODUCTION

- If there's one thing that all churches have in common, it is that all churches want to grow. They desire spiritual growth, and they desire numeric growth.
- But simply desiring to grow is not enough to make it happen.
- The very principles by which Nehemiah helped the Jews to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem are the principles that we can put in force and put into action in order to build up the church of Jesus Christ.

1 We Should Care

Nehemiah 1:1–4

- What was it that caused him to sit down and to cry and to weep bitterly about Jerusalem? It was that he cared.
- And that really is the very foundation upon which everything else that we see in Nehemiah happens.
- There are too many Christians that simply are complacent. They don't care.
- What this church will be in ten years, in twenty years, will be largely the result of what we begin doing as a congregation today.

2 We Must Pray

Nehemiah 1:4–11; Nehemiah 2:4–5

- When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days. And I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.
- Nehemiah was a man who prayed short prayers, and he prayed long prayers. He was a man of prayer.
- It's God who is going to give us our increase. And until we begin to trust in our God, that will not happen.
- We can talk to God and we can pray to Him. That is something every one of us can do, and we can begin doing that today.

3 We Must Plan

Nehemiah 2:11–16

- He had to formulate a plan. He had to know what was going on. He had to know what the walls look like.
- Growth that is sustained is not impulsive action. It is based on something that is planned.
- A church that fails to plan is planning to fail.
- It will not work until we work it. We've got to work the plan.

4 We Must Ignore the Critics

Nehemiah 2:19–20

- The God of heaven will give us success. Therefore we as servants will arise and build.
- Sometimes the critics come from a very unlikely source.
- The only way you won't get criticized is if you just sit at home and do nothing.
- What we need is not critics. We need supporters. We need cheerleaders. We need workers.
- Just ignore the critics and keep working.

5 We Need Every Member

Nehemiah 6:15–16; 1 Corinthians 12:14–21

- He came in and motivated the people, and he got every family to work.
- Then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work.
- Because the people had a mind to work, and because every member was involved. That's how they did it.
- I don't care who you are, you can help in some way.
- For the body is not one member but many.
- It doesn't matter what member you are, you are needed. Everybody is needed. Everybody is valuable and everybody is necessary.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Will you look at what he did and turn away from it? Or will you see what he did in giving his own life and say, I want to be his follower?**

MY NOTES