

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 3, Eph 4:11-13

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 1/28

1. Read Nehemiah 3:1-12 to get a feel for the chapter. What does Nehemiah's overall strategy for rebuilding the wall seem to be?
2. At the time of Nehemiah all Israel was used to a system where most of God's important work was done by professional priests, prophets, and kings. Read Ephesians 4:11-13. Nehemiah seems to reach for a strategy that's more like the way the New Testament distributes ministry to all God's people. What do you think it was like for the people of Jerusalem to switch to this new model of ministry under Nehemiah?
3. The task of rebuilding the wall was daunting. They were rebuilding a wall 2.5 miles long, 40 feet high, and 8 feet thick -- and they were starting from disorganized piles of rubble. Taken as a whole, it would have overwhelmed anyone -- but divided into 40+ sections, it became doable. Have you ever felt like God has "assigned" you some piece of His rebuilding, renewing, and restoring work in the world? What was it like?
4. Sometimes God's focus is on rebuilding, renewing, and restoring things *around us*. Other times He seems focused on rebuilding, renewing, and restoring things *inside us* or in our personal relationships. When have you experienced God's renewing work on the inside? How did that inside restoration relate to your ability to rebuild, renew, and restore things in the world around you?
5. People can get overwhelmed by the amount of need in the world. It can paralyze us into doing nothing because we don't know where to start or which parts God may have assigned to us. Do you think that if you began to pray, "Lord, lead me to a piece of the world's need with my name on it" that God would answer that prayer? Have you ever prayed this way before?
6. Most of the time the "piece of the wall" God has assigned to us is in one of these five "zones": 1) where we LIVE, 2) where we WORK, 3) where we LEARN, 4) where we PLAY, or 5) where we are SENT. Can you give an example of a time when God has used you to rebuild a "piece of the wall" in one of these "zones"?