



RE:BUILDING

The Repair Man

Sunday 1st February 2026
Nehemiah 2:9-16

When I was 15 we finally got our first TV. It seemed we had finally caught up. Everything seemed better until it wasn't and the tv stopped working one summer. Disaster. And so the TV went into the TV Repair Shop in the village. It was not thrown away and replaced with some sleeker, newer version, like you would today.

1

The whole concept of the story of Nehemiah is designed to remind us that **God is in the business of rebuilding the broken down and destroyed things we would throw away.** Unlike us, who have been taught to label dysfunctional people so we can justify throwing them out of our lives – the exact opposite of the nature of our God and the exact opposite of our Saviour's ministry in this world.

2

So let's go back to the life of **Nehemiah in 2:9-10,**

Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

3

And wouldn't you know it the minute Nehemiah steps towards the ruins, someone is there ready to push him off course – Sanballat and Tobiah. Their destructive mindset meant **they wanted Nehemiah to stay broken, to stay in the victim mindset, to stay defeated.**

And that, Christian, is exactly how the devil is working against you. One small piece of evidence that you are going to start walking towards rebuilding that marriage, your health, your finances, your calling, your ministry, he will be right there. Why? Because it displeases him greatly.

4

Exactly as Jesus promised in **Matthew 18:7,**

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!"

The minute you step into what is right, the father of lies will show up – and he may even come in the form of another believer.

What comes next may seem like a nice little survey of some old ruins, but it represents one of the greatest challenges you will face when rebuilding.

5

Let's read on in **Nehemiah 2:11-12**,

So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode.

6

In **Ecclesiastes 3:7**, it says,

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

7

Just because you got excited about a calling, a new vision, a new ministry does not mean you go a shout about the excitement. In **Proverbs 20:25** it says,

It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and to reflect only after making vows.

Saying something is a God-thing as soon as possible is a trap. You need to sit and reflect on what God has said and survey what lies ahead before you go giving some grand-'pre-testimony' testimony.

8

That's why Paul says to a young Pastor Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:16**,

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands

9

Whatever your calling, ministry, or gift, God places it inside you first. Then you fan into flame on the inside. **Your calling must consume you with a fire of passion before it will ever burn hot enough to impact others.**

Now for the uncomfortable bit. Looking over the broken down walls and destroyed gates.

10

It is time to go looking. Deeply into what has broken down and what has been destroyed. **You must become ok with uncomfortable.** To the same degree that Jesus was ok with your sin on His cross.

You need to own what others have destroyed. If you forever ignore what has been broken down been destroyed, you will remain in victim mode. Which is

the childish way in which we blame others for what others did to us, stopped us from doing or took away from us. But Paul speaks to your childish ways like this in **1 Corinthians 13:11**,

11

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

You need to give up, not adjust, not hold onto like an old comfort blanket, but give up your childish ways.

12

It's symptomatic of our spiritually immaturity. In **Ephesians 4:15**, it says,

speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

13

The goal of the Christian life? Growing up in EVERY WAY means **nothing about you should be left in a state of childishness**. Then Paul says 'every way INTO HIM'. That is to say all our growing up is not to become the best me I can be but to actually become the likeness of CHRIST in every way possible.

Nehemiah was stirred by God not to make Jerusalem 2.0 but to rebuild it to the original design it has before it was broken down and destroyed. It's a picture of redemption.

14

Christian, God has placed you here to become the perfect image of Christ – every one of you. As Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 3:18**,

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another

15

we are being transformed into His image. That means leaving old me behind. **Philippians 3:13** says,

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,