

Nehemiah: The Heart of a Builder
“A Builder’s Prayer”
Nehemiah 1

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We are builders at heart ... but a lot of us spend our time gazing at rubble. What is rubble? It's the torn up, broken down stuff that all too conveniently gets in the way of our living. For some of us, it's the rubble of something physical. For others it's a broken dream. Or some unfulfilled part of our lives. Some see our spiritual lives as a pile a rubble. But Jesus came to build, not spend His time rubble gazing. Before Christ, we see the heart of a builder pop up in Nehemiah. And from his life, you and I can learn that inside each of us somewhere lies the heart of a builder.

We're going to be entering a season of building.

Three Characteristics of a Great Builder:

I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem has broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

As soon as I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:2-4 (ESV)

When news of a pile of rubble hits:

1. First response: The _____ of a Builder
2. Second response: The _____ of a Builder
3. Third response: The _____ of a Builder

Nehemiah Chapter 1

Questions for personal or small group follow-up study and reflection:

Dependency on the LORD:

1. What are the four things Nehemiah does when he hears Hanani's report? When news of rubble consumes your life, in what ways is your response like or unlike Nehemiah's?
2. Observe Nehemiah's prayer in vv 5-11. What are specific concerns? What movements of prayer does he use (eg. Adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition)? How does this model prayer for you?
3. What evidence do you find here that Nehemiah believed God heard his prayer and would answer it?
4. In what ways does Nehemiah grow through prayer and fasting? How did this growth prepare him for future steps? How have you grown through prayer? Has prayer ever prepared you for a future action?
5. What do you learn about Nehemiah's character from his reaction and his prayer?
6. Thinking about your heart for building, your influence or ministry, are there any piles of rubble you need to bring to God? What will you do to take a risk and become part of the answer for that prayer?

Pray, bringing to God the torn up, broken down piles of rubble that you are gazing at today.