

REBUILD PART 1

11 April | Paul van Coller

Catch-up:

What stood out for you about Sunday's message, "Rebuild"?

Main Idea:

We have started our new sermon series on the book of Nehemiah. We will focus on life lessons needed to rebuild.

Paul encouraged us that, if we want to change the world around us, we must be led by burdens not opportunities. Often we want to look for an open door, but we must rather be directed by our convictions.

Talk About It:

LEADERSHIP STARTS WITH LEADING OURSELVES.

Nehemiah 1:1-4 (NLT)

"These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire. **When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.**"

Nehemiah had a burden for Jerusalem and its people. A burden that forced him to take action. A burden that said, "Something must be done!"

1. What are you burdened for?

From the life of Nehemiah, we learn that leadership starts with leading ourselves. Leadership is influence! "Everything rises and falls on leadership" – John Maxwell.

PRAY FIRST.

Nehemiah 1:5-11 (NLT)

"Then I said, "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, **listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you.** Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses. Please remember what you told your servant Moses: If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honoured. The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. **O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honouring you.** Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." In those days I was the king's cup-bearer."

The first thing Nehemiah does after receiving the call to rebuild the wall is to pray.

2. Why is it so important to pray before we act?

Praying has to become our default! When we pray, we gain a Godly perspective and courage starts to fill our hearts.

REMEMBER HOW BIG GOD IS.

When we remind ourselves of how big God is, our problems get smaller and our understanding of God gets bigger.

3. How do you remind yourself about how big God is?

Like Nehemiah we need to remind ourselves of the promises of God, and expect supernatural favour!

STOP THE BLAME GAME.

We are all good at making excuses. Playing the blame game keeps us from achieving what God wants for us.

Nehemiah 1:6-7 (NLT)

"I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses."

4. What are some of the common excuses people make that prevent them from moving forward in life?

REMEMBER THE PROMISES OF GOD.

Nehemiah 1:9 (NLT)

"But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honoured."

5. Share some promises God has given to you personally.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES SACRIFICE.

Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT)

"O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honouring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me."

Nehemiah lived a life of influence and luxury. He was trusted by the king but was willing to give it all up to go and serve.

6. What intentional sacrifices do you need to make to be a better leader? In other words, what do you need to say "no" to in order to say "yes" to a life of purpose?

Time to Pray:

- Take time to thank God for His goodness and grace in our lives.
- Pray that we will be willing to sacrifice in order to make a difference in our world.
- Pray that we will stop the blame game and take responsibility, while expecting God to perform miracles in our lives.
- That the Corona Virus will stop.

Next Steps:

- Help people in your group to take their next steps.