

What is God Building Out of Your Inefficiencies?

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Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:18

❖ Faith in the face of bad reports

- Nehemiah was told of Jerusalem's trouble, and prayed
- He had faith in God's promises
- He knew the effects of sin, but knew redemption was greater
 - "We live in a sin affected world, but Christ redeemed us to have joy in this life"
 - Discuss a time when your faith has been bigger than your circumstance. How did you remind yourself of God's promises in that time?

❖ Interceding in the waiting

- God moved Nehemiah's emotions for Jerusalem, and he prayed and fasted for 4 months
- "What you cannot cry for, you will not battle for"
- God already had the provision for the need (Nehemiah 2:4-8), but He was preparing Nehemiah
 - "In the test, we see the glory of the Lord in a way we wouldn't have otherwise"
 - Discuss a time when you had to wait for God's answer. Was God's timing or solution different from yours? How did you grow or see God differently during this time?

❖ Assessing the need

- Nehemiah took wise counsel with him to assess the rubble
- He didn't ignore the problem, but took stock of the need
 - He saw the situation was dire, but he also saw what God could do
 - He didn't get stuck on what happened, he saw with faith
- When God gives us a vision, He gives the provision, and the people (Nehemiah 2:17-18)
- Rubble doesn't mean the end, it means God is rebuilding
 - Has there been a time in your life where God rebuilt your rubble? How did your faith help you see what God could do instead of what was in ruin?