

FIRST STEPS

Nehemiah 4

When rebuilding a relationship, a vocation, a sense of self, an organization – there will be challenges and complications. After Nehemiah received permission to rebuild Jerusalem and arrived, he determined that the most important thing was to rebuild the walls and gates of the city. While challenges arose, the team never wavered from that central task.

Monday: Read Nehemiah 4:1-6.

When insults come, how are you likely to respond? What is the benefit of turning to God for justice? How can your commitment to rebuilding be your response?

Tuesday: Read Nehemiah 4:7-9.

In response to conflict, Nehemiah both prayed and took action. How are depending on God and taking personal action related? How can they conflict?

Wednesday: Read Nehemiah 4:10-15.

What is the difference between rebuilding just for yourself and rebuilding for God or a cause greater than yourself?

Thursday: Read Nehemiah 4:16-23.

Nehemiah and the people continued to adapt their methods so the rebuilding would continue. What challenges are you facing right now? How might God be calling you to adapt so you can press on?

Friday: Read Nehemiah 5:1-13.

Rebuilding couldn't succeed as long as some in the community were still suffering from poverty in a crushing economic system. How do forgiveness of debt and the removal of interest to help those suffering translate to our world today? Where does injustice stand in the way of rebuilding in our communities?

Saturday: Read Nehemiah 5:14-19.

Nehemiah sacrificed his pay and profit because caring for the people rebuilding the walls came first. Where is God calling you to sacrifice for the good of others?

SUMMARY

As the people under Nehemiah's leadership continued to rebuild the walls, they faced challenge after challenge. They could have given up. They could have stopped building to fight or form an army. They could have looked out for their own interests and not worried about others in the community. Instead, they adapted where needed without ever wavering from the main task: rebuilding so that all were safe and provided for.

Nothing is more important than the mission and vision given by God.