

BEGIN AGAIN

Message #3 "Rubble"

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-20, 4:10

Pastor Phil Whetstone

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*"I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days 12 I set out during the night with a few men. **I had not told anyone** what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. 13 By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, **examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire.** 14 Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but **there was not enough room for my mount to get through...**" Neh 2:11-20*

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." Neh 4:10

Big Truth - You cannot rebuild a person, a life, a ministry, or a relationship unless you first deal with the **rubble**. Clear foundations prepare the way for **great things**.

3 STEPS BEFORE BEGINNING AGAIN

Step 1. **Clean** away the **rubble**. Neh 2:14, 4:10

"...there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

A. The rubble of **guilt**. Chapter 9

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all....Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering," Isa 53:4-6, 10

B. The rubble of **unforgiveness & resentment**.

Notice - Tobiah the ammonite - mentioned 14x

"The following came up from the towns of Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer, but they could not show that their families were descended from Israel: "60 The descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda" Ezra 2:59-60

"HURT PEOPLE, HURT PEOPLE AND HURT BECOMES A RUBBLE THAT KEEPS US AND OTHERS FROM BEGINNING AGAIN"

"Forgiveness breaks the cycle. It does not settle all the questions of blame, justice, and fairness: To the contrary, it often evades those questions. But it does allow the relationship to start over." Philip Yancy (Christianity Today)

C. The rubble of **unconfessed sin**. 1:4-7

Step 2. **Consecrate** the rubble to God. Neh 1:10-11

"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

Step 3. **Commit** yourself to the **course**. Neh 6:3-4

"...so I sent messengers to them with this reply: 'I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?' 4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer."

What is your new beginning?

What's the wall in your life?

What **rubble** has been keeping you from moving forward?

Three Truths about Rubble Patrol:

1. It's a **lonely** road. Neh 2:12
2. It's an **un-avoidable** road. Neh 2:14
3. It seems like an **impossible** task. Neh 4:10

"Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression." Ps 19:12-13 David

"See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." Isa 49:15-16 GOD

QUESTIONS

What is the new beginning that you sense God stirring in you?

What's the wall in your life?

What rubble has been keeping you from moving forward?

- **In your walk with God.**
- **In your relationships with others.**
- **In your personal journey.**

What would it look like if you surrendered those to God and gave permission for Him to use those for His glory as He brings victory in your life?

SERVICE TIMES

- **Sunday Morning 8:30 AM** - Heritage Service
 - **Sunday Morning 10:00 AM** - CW Family Service – Children, Youth, and Adult Classes
 - **Sunday Morning 11:20 AM** - CW Family Service – Family Connect
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UPCOMING EVENTS

For all our upcoming online and in-person events, go to our website: www.cwmc.church/event