



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Scripture: Nehemiah

TITLE Nehemiah – Rebuilding Your Life

My kids love to build forts, but it is usually a process. But one thing I know is they will do it on their own, but it usually takes a long time because of a lot of trial, error, and withstanding interference. So they call me and ask for help. What took them 2 hours took me 15 minutes.

You know, this is a lot like our relationship with God. We do things on our own, and it is a long, painful process. But when we turn it over to God, it tends to go better.

This is what we see in the Book of Nehemiah.

The Book of Nehemiah is the continuation of the story of Ezra. This is the third exodus of the Israelites from Persia in Babylon. The author is Nehemiah. It was written around 430 B.C. It covers roughly 19 years. The book is only 13 chapters but packs a powerful reminder of God's power in the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem. The book can be divided into two parts. Chapters 1-7 are the reconstruction of the wall. Chapters 8-13 are about the spiritual rebuilding of the people. Some of the people you will meet are Nehemiah, Ezra, Sanballat, and Tobiah.

Is Jesus found in Nehemiah? Much like Ezra, not directly. But we see illustrations of Christ in the book. Nehemiah depicts Christ in His ministry of restoration. Nehemiah gives up a high position to come to the suffering people. He comes with a mission and fulfills it. His life is dependent upon God. This is how we see Christ illustrated in this book.

What is the main thing about Nehemiah? Rebuilding. God is in the business of rebuilding our souls, our lives, and our future...if we submit to Him.

Think about this. God doesn't care about your pedigree, education, stature, or anything else superficial. In this book, God used Nehemiah, who was a servant, a cupbearer who performed a humble task to do incredible things. Imagine what God can do with you.

Nehemiah 8:8-10 says,

“They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all of them, ‘This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the LORD is your strength.’”

The main thing is God is in the business of rebuilding. Imagine what He can do with you.

So here's my challenge for you today: Rejoice as God rebuilds your life and future. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Our fuel is God's Word alive and rich. We are called to study it, know it, engage it, and be transformed by it. This is one of the tools He uses to rebuild our hearts and lives. So let us rejoice as He rebuilds our lives one day at a time.