

Rebuild Don't Relax, Part 7

Steve Berger March 5, 2017

Today

Each of us has wounded, weak, needy places in our lives that Jesus needs to touch. Those places don't all get revealed and healed at the moment of conversion. As we rebuild our lives, God reveals those places in order to heal those places!

Everyone has rubbish

"Rebuild Don't Relax" from Ezra and Nehemiah — today we pick it up in Nehemiah 4, about 90 years and 5 kings after Cyrus' first decree to let the Jewish people return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, the city and its wall — now they are building the wall...

• Nehemiah 4: 1-9

But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall." Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders. So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

Application — this story serves an analogy for our lives...

1. **Everyone has rubbish** — burnt, wounded, fallen, broken places that Jesus needs to heal (*the wall and it's immediate surroundings were a mess, no lack of rubbish*)
 - some of the rubbish around this wall was 140 years old — King Nebuchadnezzar 586BC
 - some old — maybe just coming to your attention, deal with it!
 - some old — that you've refused to deal with, *it's not going away!*
 - some accumulating — due to not dealing with it
2. **Rebuilding reveals rubbish** — as you rebuild things become clear, they surface, they get exposed

- **God wants to save, heal and deliver**

- **Psalm 107:19-21**

Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

- God's goodness and miracles are seen in His saving, healing, and delivering

- **Enemy wants to terrorize, and capitalize on your rubbish** — discouragement, lies, fear, threats, intimidation etc., verses 2-3, 11-12. Enemy wants to keep you in rubbish and ruin!

3. What do we do with our rubbish?

- **Nehemiah 4:10-18**

Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall." And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us." Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

- **acknowledge your rubbish**- "there's so much" — they didn't deny it — might be tough but there is no saving, healing, delivering, rebuilding apart from it
 - **inflicted upon us** — invite Jesus into it
 - **self-inflicted** — confess and repent
- **Bottom line, don't hold back**- *"Whatever you hold back from God, the Devil is sure to get."*

What do we do with our rubbish, burnt, broken, fallen places?

1. Position **trusted** people by it.

- verse 13 — positioned men at lower parts of wall, where rubbish was, according to their families, those most trusted, interested, competent in the rebuilding.
- “here’s my deal”, “bring it into the light”, **share, prayer, bear!**

2. Position encouraging people by it.

- verse 14 — “don’t be afraid, remember the Lord, great and awesome, fight for brothers, sons, daughters, wives, houses.”

**You must find encouraging people to put around your rubbish —
speak faith when fear attacks, keep you focused on God’s power —
not your rubbish or enemies lies,
remind you of the cause at hand and the reward to come.**

3. Position armed people by it.

- verses 16-17 — spears, shields, bows, and armor — **FIGHTERS!**
- fight with prayer, truth, wisdom, compassion, patience etc.

**Rebuilding and dealing with your rubbish isn’t for sissies,
you need armed fighters!**

4. Rebuild with your sword at your side.

- verse 18 — Sword of Spirit is Word of God, Ephesians 6:17

**You must know God’s truth for your trash —
His power and promises for your problems —
know truth be set free, John 8:32!**

5. Be committed — have a mind to work.

- verse 6 — wall was built, gaps were closed because the people had a mind to work!

**You gotta want it, you gotta do your part, you gotta cooperate with God
and the trusted, encouraging, armed people He’s given you.**

Who are you having a T.E.A. party with?

- Trusted, Encouraging, Armed people that you are positioning around your rubbish?
- look until you find them, heed their biblically-based counsel

- **Proverbs 11:14**

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

- **Proverbs 24:6**

For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

Who's in your chair?

**There isn't a place of known rubbish in my life that I haven't positioned
Trusted, Encouraging, Armed friends and counselors around.
It keeps me safe. It saves, heals and delivers me...
it will do the same for you!**

Discussion Questions

1. Can you identify at least one wounded, weak, needy place in your life that Jesus needs to touch?
2. Has this weak place been in your life for a long time? Has it just come to your attention? Have you refused to deal with it in the past? Has it accumulated due to your not dealing with it?
3. Can you identify how the enemy has tried to discourage you with lies or fear to keep you from facing what needs to be rebuilt?
4. Respond to the statement, "Whatever you hold back from God, the Devil is sure to get."
5. Can you identify some people in your life who are Trusted, Encouraging, and Armed, for you to have your T.E.A. party with?
6. If not, what can you do about finding some?