

Rebuild Don't Relax, Part 10

Steve Berger April 2, 2017

Today

final teaching of series, before we get into it, quick review...

1. We live in a day when we must rebuild and not relax. No false hope or confidence!
2. Foundations of a rebuilt life — be part of unified community, prayer, word, worship
3. Obedience to God is an invitation to opposition — infiltration, discouragement, trouble, chaos, false accusation
4. Obedience to God is an opportunity for God's provision — King's treasury, all provided!
5. Tough decisions — especially those related to our past sins
6. Pastor Jimmy — three action items for rebuilding: stop pretending, ask big, circle the problem
7. Position people by your trash — **Trusted, Encouraging, Armed (TEA)**, have sword at side and a mind to work
8. Pastor Jimmy — importance of the fear of the Lord; Pastor Dave — not picking up offenses
9. Perseverance — value your rebuilding more than heeding enemy's distractions, recognize lies, know who you are, reject fear, find strength through prayer

Today — three final action items found in final 6 chapters...

Celebrate Victories

Nehemiah 12:27-43 is celebration of dedication of the wall

- **Nehemiah 8: 5-6, 9-12**

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground... And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

- verse 6 — blessed the LORD, Amen, lifted hands, bowed heads, worshiped with faces to the ground
- verse 9 — don't mourn or weep
- verse 10 — joy of the LORD is your strength
- verse 12- they rejoiced greatly

Celebrating victories, being joyful for God's goodness...

- gives glory where it's due — to God alone!
- keeps you from getting prideful — thinking you did it on your own
- it positions you for more of God's strength — being joyful, celebrating God's victories, it strengthens you for your next victory

Celebrating your last victory is seeding the strength of your next victory!

*Permission — celebrate who you **aren't** any more, celebrate who you **are** in Christ, celebrate who you **are becoming** in Christ*

Don't be so focused on what still needs to be rebuilt, that you don't celebrate what has been rebuilt!

Stay Humble — we're vulnerable after great victories

- **Nehemiah 9:1-3**
Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.
- **humbling themselves** — fasting, sackcloth, dust heads, separating from foreigners, confessing their sins and sins of fathers, verses 5-38 confessing sins

One of the keys to confessing sin — knowing the difference between **Conviction** and **Condemnation**!

- **Conviction** focuses on sin, **Condemnation** focuses on you!
- **Conviction** gives instruction leading to a solution, **Condemnation** heaps guilt leading to shame!

- **Conviction** moves you toward Jesus and freedom, **Condemnation** moves you away from Jesus and into bondage!

- **Romans 8:1 — so important while rebuilding**

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

**When you're rebuilding your life, stay humble,
be sensitive to the Spirit's conviction,
confess sins when necessary...
reject condemnation — also reject the idea
that any degree of conviction is condemnation,
therefore I don't have to listen.**

Beware of Compromise

Nehemiah was away for one year, amazing how quickly our rebuilding can become ruin through compromise with sin. Nehemiah comes back...

- 13:1-3 allowed mixed multitude in — separation needed
 - 13:4-9 made room for enemy Tobiah in Temple
 - 13:10-14 stopped giving tithes and offerings
 - 13:15-22 started Sabbath work, doing business
 - 13:23-29 married pagan women — again!
- **Nehemiah 13:30-31**
Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service, and to bringing the wood offering and the firstfruits at appointed times. Remember me, O my God, for good!

**Cleansing ourselves from all things pagan, unholy,
and ungodly isn't negotiable, it's responsible!
It's not legalism, it's holiness!**

Compromise in pulpits and compromise in the pews...

In pulpits — Sixty years ago, A.W. Tozer dealing with compromising preachers said, "We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum."¹

¹A.W. Tozer, *The Best of A.W. Tozer, Book One*, (Moody Publishers, 2007)

In pews — Over a hundred years ago, the great evangelist Charles Spurgeon said, "I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."²

- **Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- present body as living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God
- that's reasonable service, act of worship
- don't be conformed to world — it's ways and values
- transformed by renewing of mind — agreeing with God's ways
- prove, test, know that God's will is good, pleasing and perfect!

Closing Prayer

“Father, we’ve discussed much, learned a lot, we need to apply it all in our rebuilding... as an act of worship, we present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to You, we refuse to be conformed to this world, we choose to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, by agreeing with You and what your good, pleasing and perfect will is, in Jesus Name, amen!”

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it easier to dwell on defeats, than celebrate victories?
2. Why is it so important to give God the glory, even in the smallest victory?
3. What is the difference between conviction and condemnation? How have you struggled with that in your own life?
4. Are there any compromises that are trying to make their way into your life right now?
5. Is Charles Spurgeon's quote from 100 years ago still applicable today?
6. In Romans 12, how can we prove, test, know that God's will is good, pleasing and perfect?

Before the Throne: Worship Night

Wednesday, April 5th

6:30 pm

Sanctuary

² C.H. Spurgeon, *The Soul Winner*, (Gideon House Books, 2016)