

## 20230115 HOW TO REBUILD LIFE

Nehemiah 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup> The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,

<sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

<sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

<sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.

<sup>7</sup> We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,

<sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

<sup>10</sup> "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

<sup>11</sup> 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." I was cupbearer to the king.

**How we build our life depends on our character (our heart attitudes).**

Proverbs 27:19

<sup>19</sup> As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.

Today's lesson from the story of Nehemiah chapter 1

### - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> return from captivity: Jerusalem was in suffering and difficulties

### - THE ATTITUDES OF NEHEMIAH (THE PERSON GOD USES FOR HIS PURPOSE)

**1. Nehemiah's attitude number one: He cried before God for Jerusalem.**

Nehemiah 1:4

<sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

**2. Nehemiah's attitude number two: He honored God by recognizing God's character.**

Nehemiah 1:5

<sup>5</sup> Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments.

### **3. Nehemiah's character number three: He loved God's people with sympathy and empathy.**

Nehemiah 1:6a

<sup>6</sup> Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night **for your servants, the people of Israel.**

#### **With sympathy: Sharing the burden**

Nehemiah 1:6b-7

<sup>6</sup> ...I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.

<sup>7</sup> We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

#### **With empathy: Understanding the burden**

Nehemiah 1:8-10

<sup>8</sup> "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,

<sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

<sup>10</sup> "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

### **4. Nehemiah's attitude number four: He trusted God and expected His answer.**

Nehemiah 1:11

<sup>11</sup> 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." I was cupbearer to the king.

### **APPLICATION**

#### **1. Understand the will of God: Meditation of the Word**

Ephesian 5:17

<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Three things to learn through meditating God's Word

- God's character, God's promise, God's power

#### **2. Be filled with the Spirit of God.**

Ephesians 5:18

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

How to ask God to fill my spirit with His Spirit

- Prayer, Humility, Continuity