



Ruins to Restoration Nehemiah 2:17 - 18

Above all, put on love,
which is the perfect
bond of unity.

The Story of the Restoration of Jerusalem is not the story of individual restoration.

It is the story of how God restored a people – a community – a nation.



The Challenge:

- Think beyond your individual, personal relationship with God.
- Think about how God leverages your personal relationship with him to impact the people groups he has placed you in.
- Think about how this message applies to the communities you are a part of .
- Think about how the people in this story acted as a community, and how God restored them as a group of people.



Revelation

Revelation is like a moment when our eyes are opened to something that we hadn't seen before.

Revelation is like an awakening with understanding.



Revelation

God revealed to Nehemiah the state of ruin Jerusalem was in through a visit from Nehemiah's brother. (Nehemiah 1:1-3)

God revealed his plan when the spirit of God "roused" the people to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord. (Ezra 1:5)



Revelation

- God revealed his plan when he moved leaders outside of the Jewish community to act.
- King Cyrus of Persia was moved by God to issue a decree releasing the Jews and for rebuilding the House of the Lord in Jerusalem.
- King Artaxerxes allowed Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and provided him with royal documents that provided for safe travels and the procurement of resources. (A foreign government helped pay to rebuild the City of God.)



How Is God revealing himself to Bethany Church?

- In addition to the Word of God, in what other ways does God reveal himself and his plans to us as a church?
- What opportunities is God giving us?
- Are there others who feel led to partner with us in building God's kingdom?
- What doors is God opening?
- What resources is God providing for his work?



What people is God bringing our way?



What people is God bringing our way? How does seeing these people impact how we function, minister and grow?

- Sunday Attenders
- Online Worshipers, Bible Study & Small Group Participants
- Wednesday night student ministry, Awana, music class families
- Learning Center families and teachers
- Bethany Music Center private lesson families and teachers, music camp families.
- Regular Special Event Participants and Volunteers.



What am I really saying when I use the words “inside the church” or “outside the church” to define the groups of people who come here?

How do we define “inside” and “outside when God is sending so many different people through our doors on a weekly basis for a variety of ministry programs?

God is revealing something to us by the people he is sending.



Representation & Relocation

- Someone from every family group showed up.
- They relocated and took responsibility for a section of the wall.
- God is calling his people to be responsible for one another, to show up, to cover their part of the work to be done.



What do you believe about your physical presence at church?

Do you believe that your presence matters to the Body of Christ?

Do you believe that God intends for you to be a part of what he wants to do at Bethany Church and in our larger community?



It takes a team.

Rebuilding the wall wasn't about individual effort. But it does demonstrate the result of individuals coming together, leveraging their sweat and skills as a group to accomplish God's mission.

Nehemiah 4:15-23



We truly make it when everyone makes it together.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (CSB)

“And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.”



Rebuilding & Renovation

They weren't just rebuilding the wall, they were rebuilding their relationship with God as a community.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are not just responsible for our own individual spiritual growth. We have a responsibility to invest in the spiritual growth of others.



Rebuilding Questions

- How does God want us to be working together to build our relationship with God as a church?
- How is all of Bethany Church doing spiritually?
- Who do you think of when you think of Bethany Church?
- Are there groups of people or individuals that we should be including in our understanding of who Bethany is?
- How does that understanding impact how we grow and minister and serve?
- Who are the people to your left side and to your right side?
- How do we structure things so that we move forward together?
- How is God rebuilding, renovating, and restoring Bethany Church in this post covid season?

