

## Scripture Texts

### **NEHEMIAH 2:17-20**

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

### **DEUTERONOMY 8:10-14**

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

### **COLOSSIANS 3:23,24**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

### **ISAIAH 61:4**

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

### **JOHN 10:27,28**

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

### **NEHEMIAH 4:1,2,14,16-20**

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked.

Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, “The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

### **NEHEMIAH 8:9,10**

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

# Big Ideas

1

Hard times create strong people.  
Strong people create good times.  
Good times create weak people.  
Weak people create hard times.

2

Our prosperity has a purpose... but as soon as we forget that our supply comes from God, our prosperity becomes a trap that leads you into bondage. We are not containers of blessing; we are conduits of blessing.

3

Nehemiah had a political position before he had a spiritual position. He saw his vocation as just another sphere of influence that God could use if he would only be a willing vessel.

4

The Church has an obligation to speak truth in the public square. If we don't, the religion of politics will swallow up the ability of free people to worship God as we see fit.

5

If we can look up, we can get up.  
If we can get up,  
we can set our hands to good work and begin the process of rebuilding.

6

Shame is a false identity that attempts to convince us that we are what we've done. In Christ we have become new creations and shame and condemnation no longer have any claim.

# Questions & Takeaways

- Can I better set aside shame, and walk in the forgiveness and confidence purchased for me by Christ?
- What bricks can I add to the wall of my Christian life and devotion?
- Can we do two things at once? How can I lean into both trusting and worshipping God, while doing my part in the work?

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