

The **Call** of God  
The **Response**  
of the Faithful

November 16, 2008

Nehemiah 2:1-20

Consider the Tricky & Often Unpopular **Call to Restoration**

**“Like Nehemiah, God’s call to us is often not to something new, but to the far more complicated and far less flashy work of the rebuilding and restoration in the rubble of our lives and our world.”**

- Kevin Finch

**Practical Help from Nehemiah**

1. Restoration takes prayer AND action.
2. Refuse to work alone – involve God & others.
3. Expect resistance.

**Share your story**

*We normally divide people into thinkers and doers because we all have tendencies to respond first as one way or the other. But Nehemiah responded in both ways.*

When you hear of a tragedy in someone’s life is your first response usually to (a) offer to pray for them or (b) offer to bring over food?

How might your various responses as a group be used to make you a stronger team?

**Read Nehemiah 2:1-20**

Watch for all the ways Nehemiah responds with prayer and thought as well as action.

**Apply It**

Where is the rubble in your life that God intends to be a wall once again?

Where is the rubble in your neighborhood? Where is the rubble at work? In your family or among your friends? Where is the rubble in our world?

In what ways have you intentionally put geographic, social or emotional distance between you and your rubble?

What is it that breaks your heart? Is there any chance that this might be more than a sentimental soft spot for you? Any chance that what breaks your heart might be God calling?

How might God be calling you because of the position you are in? Is God calling you to get access to something? Is God calling you away from a position of power or work that is more flashy and into a place that seems unpopular or less significant? Whether you think this might be the case or you just don’t know, discuss what crosses your mind as you hear these questions. How might your group help you discern what’s going on in these thoughts?

Consider how what God is calling you each to individually might be an opportunity to work together to bring about restoration somewhere. Make a plan that involves both prayer and action. Are you feeling reluctant, too busy, uncommitted, or \_\_\_\_\_? Might this be resistance? If so, what should you do about it?

**Pray Together**

Pray for the places of rubble you identified.

Ask God to give you courage and wisdom and the means to help bring restoration in these places.

**Live It!**

Continue to pray as you are called AND take steps to act on what you hear through prayer.