

Don't Despair—Begin to Repair

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Nehemiah 1.

B. Background to the Nehemiah.

1. Nehemiah was a servant to King of Persia.
2. The story is about the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.
3. It is the story of the renewing of a people ruined.
4. Jerusalem pictures the place that God wants to dwell—the human spirit.
5. Jerusalem is a picture of the man who has lost himself due to attack—it is ruined.

C. This book is appropriate for New Year's resolutions—when you try to resolve to do better, you depend upon your own willpower, but this is what we lack. It is difficult to keep these resolutions because of the lie that we do not need God to function.

II. Nehemiah's diary.

A. There are places in our lives where the walls have broken down, and there are sins that we are unable to break.

B. Nehemiah gives steps on how to repair the breaches.

III. Begin to repair the breaches by weeping over them and telling God about them.

A. This is an honest facing of the ruin.

B. Nehemiah recognized the character of God—He is responsive, powerful and loving.

C. Nehemiah repented of all personal and corporate sin.

D. Nehemiah requested specific help for his problem.

E. Nehemiah took a first step.

IV. Make this a year of recovery.

Application questions:

1. What breaches in your spiritual walls do you struggle with personally?

2. Why is honesty a necessary first step?

3. Take some time and journal to God through the steps Nehemiah took with a particular sin with which you have been struggling.
