

*Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

*Nehemiah 8:17 The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.*

### **Reaffirm the covenant**

*Nehemiah 9:3 They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the LORD their God.*

### **Dedication of the wall**

*Nehemiah 12:27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.*

*Nehemiah 12:43 And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.*

Key: Page 1: great. won't. Page 3: Joy.

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## Say "No" to the Blahs

### Living an "Ordinary" Life with Meaning

#### What Should I Learn from Nehemiah?

October 2, 2011

<b>Ezra 1-6</b>	<b>Ezra 7-10</b>	<b>Nehemiah</b>
Restoration by Zerubbabel	Reform by Ezra	Reconstruction by Nehemiah
538-515 B.C.	457 B.C.	444-425 B.C.
Temple	People	Walls
Haggai, Zechariah	—	Malachi
1st Return (50,000)	2nd Return (2,000)	3rd Return

*Nehemiah 6:3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"*

Whatever you do out of a sincere desire to know Me and draw others to Me is a \_\_\_\_\_ work. As you engage in that work sometimes you will be energized as you catch a glimpse of My plan unfolding. More often you \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matt. 10:42 "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."*

Even in the "ordinary" there is extraordinary work to do.

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## Rebuild the Walls: Nehemiah 1-7

*Nehemiah 1:4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*

*Nehemiah 2:17 "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins...<sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me."*

### Opposition: from without and within

*Nehemiah 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"<sup>20</sup> 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."*

*Nehemiah 4:4 Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity.<sup>5</sup> Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.*

*Nehemiah 4:6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.*

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*Nehemiah 4:9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.*

Pray as if it all depends on God; act as if it all depends on you.

*Nehemiah 4:14 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 brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."*

*Nehemiah 4:20 "Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"*

*Neh 6:16 When all our enemies heard about this all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.*

\_\_\_\_\_ occurs when we see what God is doing;  
His plan is on track.

## Restore the People: Nehemiah 8-13

*Nehemiah 8:8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.*

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