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**Date:** January 17, 2021**Message Title:** Restarting Right**Scripture:** Nehemiah 1:1-11**Series:** Let's Build It Again

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**Nehemiah 1:1-11** - The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, <sup>2</sup> that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

<sup>4</sup> As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. <sup>7</sup> We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup> Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying:

"If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, <sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' <sup>10</sup> They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. <sup>11</sup> O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

**Nehemiah's Four Initial Steps to Beginning Again:**

Step One: \_\_\_\_\_

Step Two: \_\_\_\_\_

Step Three: \_\_\_\_\_

Step Four: \_\_\_\_\_

1. When have you felt like Nehemiah who was devastated over a problem he saw?
2. Have you ever felt like you were living on a mission for a purpose much larger than yourself? Talk about that experience and how it compares to other points in your life when you didn't feel like you were participating in larger purpose? Which is better?
3. Would you consider yourself more of a prayer or a doer? Why? From your previous knowledge of Nehemiah, would you consider him more of prayer or a doer? Do you believe he models the correct balance between the two? Why or why not?
4. What strikes you about Nehemiah's prayer of repentance?
5. What can make it difficult for us to repent like Nehemiah?
6. Are there parts of our corporate past (Bridges or national) of which you feel the need to repent? Any dark moments of our past of which you resist repenting?
7. When you repent to God, do you normally lean more toward rejoicing that He includes you through Christ or more toward continuing in your sorrow?
8. What types of things can hinder us from engaging a problem even if we are passionate about it? Is there anything hindering you from living on mission for a greater purpose than yourself right now?