

When Personal Walls are Broken

SEEK THE WORD OF THE LORD

Nehemiah 8

INTRODUCTION: As we complete our study of Nehemiah we are looking at what to do when When Personal Walls Are Broken. We all have things break or have things in our lives that are attacked and are therefore threatened, and we are forced to ask, how do I repair broken walls, broken things in my life?

We saw the example of Nehemiah last week that the very first thing to do when things go wrong or we discover something is broken or in need of repair is to pray. We also found in the Scriptures that this was likewise the admonition of Jesus. He told us to pray without ceasing.

We saw that prayer, just calling out to God is always the right first response when things are broken, breaking, or in need of repair in our own lives. Whether it is

- **family life**
- **marriage**
- **kids**
- **parents**
- **job, work**
- **moral issues**
- **financial problems**

The very first thing we should always do when these things arise or as soon as we discover a problem is to pray!

But that is not all we should do.

When Nehemiah had personal walls broken down or breaking, he prayed, but he did more than pray.

When I have broken things in my life or things are under attack, I always pray. That is the first thing I do, but it is not all I do.

The next thing to do is Seek the Word of the Lord.

Listen to what happened in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 8:1–6 1 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. 3 Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law. ... 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

We too should seek the Word of the Lord.

We should not just seek it when the walls are crumbling, but most certainly when we find that we have personal walls that are broken down, and we need to know how to repair them, we need to seek the Word of the Lord.

I. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S PERFECT TREASURE OF WISDOM AND TRUTH.

Listen, my friend,

THE BIBLE WON'T TELL YOU	THE BIBLE WILL TELL YOU
how to fix your car	how to fix your marriage
how to prepare your kids for college	how to prepare your kids for life
how to get that big promotion or land your dream job	how to be the employee bosses want to hire, keep, and advance
There are a lot of subjects the Bible does not address.	But it will tell you everything you need to live life successfully.

Think about that statement with me a moment:

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S PERFECT TREASURE OF TRUTH AND WISDOM.

A. God's Treasure

The Bible is the Word of God because it came from God. Yes, it came through men, but in such a way as to remain the words of God.

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus called the Bible “God’s Word” when He prayed.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word** is truth.

B. God’s Truth

If the Bible is the Word of God as Jesus said it was, how could it not be true?

Christians, I am speaking to you right now. Sometimes I address the unbeliever and the skeptic to describe reasons to believe and to demonstrate the truthfulness and accuracy of the Bible, but right now I want to speak to Christians.

Do not be swayed by men who say, “But Moses did not know about the speed of light, and relativity, and black holes, etc. He just wrote according to what people knew in his day.”

But we who believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior know that Jesus was present before and during creation. **The issue is not what Moses knew. The issue is what Jesus knew when He declared to the Father concerning the Scriptures, “Your Word is truth!”**

C. God’s Wisdom

God’s Word is not only true concerning the facts it declares, whether they be spiritual truths, scientific truths, or historical truths, the Bible is filled with the wisdom of God, the practical application of truth to life.

And, the Scripture gives testimony that God’s wisdom was established before creation even began.

No wonder David said of the Word of God,

Psalm 19:7,11 ...The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple ... by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

D. God’s Perfect Treasure of Truth and Wisdom

Because the Bible is God’s Word it is nothing less than perfect. How could it be anything else?

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, ...

When God gives us instruction through His Word, we can know that it is absolutely correct.

II. WE MUST SEEK THE TREASURE!

What good is a hundred million dollars of gold and precious jewels in an ancient chest, if the treasure is never taken out and used?

Dear friend, we have in our Bibles everything we need to live well, everything we need to solve difficulties of spirit and soul. Yet for most people, sadly, even for many who call themselves Christians, our treasure remains within its treasure chest. The chest is not even locked. It just is not open!

Luke 11:9–10

9 “So I say to you,

ask, and it will be given to you;

seek, and you will find;

knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives,

and he who seeks finds,

and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Folks, will you listen very carefully to me? Will you give me your full attention for about a paragraph? For just a couple of minutes?

Because if you only hear part of this you're going to be mad at me.

So, are you listening?

A. Prayer isn't enough!

Now, I urged you last week that anytime things were broken, the very first thing you and I need to do is pray.

When Nehemiah discovered the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, the first thing he did was pray. But it was not the only thing he did. The walls were not repaired by prayer alone.

B. Often, to rebuild our personal broken walls, we need instruction. We need to know what to do.

We need to open the treasure chest and find the instructions there that help us to know what we should do.

1. How many men have I talked to across the years, who have said, “Pastor, I just don’t know what to do with my wife. She doesn’t love me anymore; she wants a divorce. She wants me out of the house, and pastor, I’ve prayed, prayed, prayed, but it seems that God doesn’t say anything to me.”

And I say, “Brother, what have you done when God said,

Ephesians 5:25–28 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

And ...husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies;

What have you done when God said,

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

And

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *your wives* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the more fragile vessel,

And I have heard men say, “Well, not much, Pastor. I’ve just prayed.”

2. How many women have I talked to across the years, who have said, “Pastor, I just don’t know what to do with my husband. He doesn’t love me anymore; he wants a divorce. He plans to move out of the house, and pastor, I’ve prayed, prayed, prayed, but it seems that God doesn’t say anything to me.”

And I say, “Sister, what have you done what God said,

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

And what have you done when God said,

Ephesians 5:33 let the wife see that she respects *her* husband.

And what have you done when God said,

1 Peter 3:1–4 1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct

accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

And I have heard women say, “Well, not much, Pastor. I’ve just prayed.”

Folks, listen! Jesus said to seek and you will find!

I am in no way minimizing prayer, and I continue to say that when the walls are broken down in our lives, prayer should be the first thing we do. But we ought not quit there.

When we pray, “God what should I do to stop the crumbling walls?

God what should I do to rebuild the walls that are fallen?”

We most often find the answers in God’s perfect treasure of truth and wisdom.

God seldom writes the instructions out again and gives them separately to us in a personalized note.

That is why I say, “If you want to rebuild the personal broken walls, prayer is not enough. You must seek out the truth and wisdom of God from the Scriptures.”

III. HOW DO WE SEEK THE TREASURE?

A. Can you seek the treasure while the walls are falling or after they have already crumbled?

Well, let me ask you,

Can you learn how to put out a grease fire after it’s already raging on your stove in the kitchen?

You may be surprised with my answer. It is **YES! YOU CAN!**

I decided to see how long it would take me to get instructions on putting out a grease fire, so I hit the timer, went to google, typed in put out grease fire, read the instructions and I knew in less than a minute.

Is that the best way to do fire prevention? No, not really.

But folks, **God’s Word is ever ready to help you where you are, no matter how long your personal walls have been torn down or how much rubble has accumulated as a result.**

And in our church, there are people who will help you find those portions of God's Word that will instruct you on how to remove the rubble, and how to lay a new foundation, and how to rebuild the broken walls of your life. We have LCG teachers, we have pastors and staff, we have biblical counselors to help you, but we cannot rebuild the walls for you.

But although we will help you while the fire is raging or after you have already destroyed the kitchen, the best way is

B. Systematically learn the perfect truth and wisdom of God by studying the Scripture.

Nothing is better than this!

Three things will enable you to hide God's Word in your heart.

- 1. Read through the Bible systematically.**
- 2. Study the Bible in a small group weekly.**
- 3. Worship weekly, with the preaching of the Bible being a part of the worship.**

May I tell you lovingly, not to accuse or condemn, but to love you enough to speak the truth to help you?

I am concerned for many of you.

Because many of you do not read the Bible systematically, but sporadically.

You attend small group Bible study 50% of the time or less.

The same is true for your worship experience as well.

And those of you with children, they are doing the same thing along with you.

Folks,

Do you think Jesus would say you are really seeking?

You cannot really learn the wisdom from this book by pursuing it haphazardly. Neither can your kids, children, or teens.

Parents, when getting your child to baseball or soccer practice or a game always wins out over getting them to church on Sunday, your kids get the message very quickly and very well as to what is really important.

And you may be thinking, "But Bro. Mike, we can make up that time by teaching our children the Bible at home." Yeh. You could. But do you? Really! You

can't make time to get yourself and your children to church to participate in classes and worship where people have prepared to teach and lead you and them, often preparing 5 to 10 hours for their teaching and leading on Sunday. Now you're going to do that prep for yourself, your spouse, each of your kids on their developmental level so they can go to their sports event?

If you do that, God bless you and hush my mouth!

For the rest of you, forgive my skepticism!

C. If you seek God's perfect treasure of truth and wisdom, you will find it.

If you do not seek it, you will not find it.

CONCLUSION: When I was a young teen, some personal walls of family life had broken down in my family. We had become very slack in church, and the results of that were evident in all of us. There were lots of reasons, and to us, good reasons.

But we all sat down together and decided that we needed to get back. We needed to get back in small group Bible Study, back in Worship, back in reading the Scriptures themselves. And we did, all of us.

If we had not done that, I doubt seriously that I would have ever listened to God's call upon my life to preach and to pastor. I probably would have never met and married such a beautiful and godly wife. Never would have had the two sons I love with all my heart who themselves love the Lord our God. I never would have been a part of missions, one of the great joys of my life. I would not have known you, much less have the wonderful opportunity to be your pastor.

Are you and your family faithful seekers of God's perfect treasure?

Would you decide to do so? That decision you could make together today.