

## Beginning Again

We learn a valuable lesson in beginning again from Nehemiah. After many years his people had the chance to depart from captivity in Babylon and go back to the Promised Land. Many times it is years before an opportunity comes to move on from where we are, and go where God wants us.

In Nehemiah's case, their opportunity came with difficulty. How do you start over again when there's so much debris from the past? The walls were broken down, and the gates were burned with fire (1:3).

It was in piles so large that Nehemiah could not get his mule through (2:14). It's hard to begin again when everything you see reminds you of where you been, and nothing looks hopeful. So what do you do?

### 1. Start with God's promise. (1: 8-9)

Pray His promise. Keep it in the front of your mind. When you see all the rubbish of the past, declare His promise over it. God's word can move mountains, but without His promise it is just wishful thinking. His word is powerful and will come to pass if we believe it and obey it.

### 2. Connect with the right people. (2: 4-5, 12, 16-18)

God give him an audience with the king as his cupbearer. As a result of God's favor, the king sent provisions with Nehemiah for the task ahead. The Lord also gave him people to stand with him and accomplish the work.

Not everyone returned from Babylon. Many were content to stay where they were, not where God wanted to bring them. It is the same way today (Lk. 17: 26-30, 32-33)

It's important to stay around people that have the passion to do what God has called you to do (2:17). People with the commitment and skills required.

### 3. Ignore the Naysayers. (2: 19-20)

There will always be detractors and doubters. Don't let them stop you. This does not mean you reject constructive criticism from those that may be sincere, but they didn't call you, God did. We are accountable to Him, not them.

Lk. 9: 62 He that puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.

Some people are like crabs in a barrel. They want to pull you down. Misery loves company. Let nothing and no one stop you from being all that God created you and called you to be.

I Thess. 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, who will also do it.

### 4. Press through adversity. (5: 1-5)

Nehemiah had to deal with internal strife and financial problems. He dealt with it and did not let it stop him. He stayed in the wall when one distraction after another arose from the enemy (6: 1-9).

### 5. Don't stop until it's fulfilled. (6: 15-16)

It may take longer for some of us than for others, but beginning again is worth the effort. We will all reap what we sow, some thirty, some sixty, some one hundred fold.