

## REBUILD: Putting the Pieces Back Together (Part 5)

Pastor Bill Bowers

November 12, 2017

### *The Ultimate Call*

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 8—10

**Big Idea:** No two spoken words have changed human history and individual lives more than when Jesus said, **“Follow Me!”**

Nehemiah 8:1 *“All the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given for Israel to obey.” (NLT)*

God lives at the intersection of **pain and hope**.

Nehemiah 9:38; 10:28-29 *“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it. [...] The rest of the people... bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord.” (NIV)*

**See:** Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:24-27; Matthew 28:19-20

*“To follow Jesus means I will do **what he says**. I will mess up a lot. I'm going to need his power. I know that, but I form the intention. [...] If that is not your settled intent, then whatever else you might be, you are not a follower of Jesus.” (John Ortberg)*

# **REBUILD: Putting the Pieces Back Together (Part 5)**

**Pastor Bill Bowers**

November 12, 2017

## ***The Ultimate Call***

### **HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions**

1. When you “hear” the words of Jesus inviting you to, “Follow Me,” what do you imagine that he means? Please describe your thoughts in practical everyday life terms.
2. When you imagine a friend, family member, or neighbor “following Jesus,” what does that look like to you? Please use examples to illustrate your thoughts.
3. Pastor Bill described to us that following Jesus means a decision has been made to do whatever Jesus says. How do you know what Jesus says? What was the last thing Jesus said to you? What was your response to him?
4. How has your hearing Jesus and your responses changed your life? Please describe in detail.
5. Pastor Bill further explained to us that if we are not doing all Jesus says, we are not following him. How does this make you feel? Do you agree with Pastor Bill on this point? Do you think we can be selective about the things we obey from Jesus and still be considered a follower? Explain your position.
6. How would you define a “binding agreement?” What does covenant mean to you? Are there consequences to broken agreements and/or covenants? What consequences have you experienced to broken promises, agreements, and contracts? Which side of the contract were you on and what were your feelings about the violated contract?
7. What part does grace play when it comes to broken promises and covenants? Is grace unconditional regarding broken promises and unwillingness to abide by the agreement? How does this relate to your own spiritual development?
8. Do you obey all of Jesus’ commandments? Do you follow all his teachings? What prevents you from obeying Jesus to the full?

**Read for next week: Nehemiah 11**