

## REBUILD – Putting the Pieces Back Together (Part 7)

Pastor Jeff Borden

November 26, 2017

### *Celebration*

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 12:27-47

Nehemiah 12:27 (CEB) *“When it was time for the dedication of Jerusalem’s wall, they sought out the Levites in all the places where they lived in order to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with joy, with thanks and singing, and with cymbals, harps, and lyres.”*

Today we identify with the people of God from Nehemiah’s day. We are the people of God today, as Peter reminds us in his first letter, *“you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 2:5, NIV)

We choose to enter into experiential worship today as we make our identification with and in Christ. Richard Foster, in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, writes; *“Celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ. He entered the world on a high note of jubilation: “I bring you good news of a great joy,” cried the angel, “which shall come to all the people” (Luke 2:10). He left the world bequeathing his joy to the disciples: “These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11, RSV).*

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Instructions for Prayer of Response: Leader will guide with congregation responding with words in bolded print.

DECLARATION OF FAITH:       **We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.**  
  **We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, His Son.**  
  **We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.**  
  **We believe and trust in the Three in One.**

*Prayers for Others (following each request):* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER: ***Our Father...***

*(to be recited slowly)* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord; You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.** [Canticle: Gloria in excelsis]

We shall run on the path of God’s commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love.

**The life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me.**

Listen to my prayer, O God. I will call upon the LORD and He will rescue me. Morning, noon, and night I call out for Him and the LORD hears my voice.

**My God has ransomed me; He keeps me safe, awaiting the Eternal Presence. God is with me, God is within me**

Thanks be to God—Creator Redeemer, and Giver of Life.

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, for evermore.**

**DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Let us Bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

- 1.** During our study, we have been challenged to ask God help to identify “what breaks our heart.” Have you identified a particular “heartbreak” for God? What is it and what is your response to this heart break?
- 2.** We have journeyed together for seven weeks in this study of Nehemiah. What has been your greatest takeaway from this study? How has it impacted you?
- 3.** Today’s service was a departure from our regular order of service and worship in the Word. Was there any part of the service that was especially meaningful to you? Please explain your response.
- 4.** What do you think the people of Israel were celebrating during the dedication of the wall?
- 5.** Is there anything that stands out to you as you read through our Scripture reference today? (Nehemiah 12:27-47) Why do you think this stands out to you? Do you feel that God is inviting you to any specific response to this thing? Please share your thoughts.
- 6.** How do you think we are to interpret Peter’s exhortation, “you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5, NIV) What does this mean for you?
- 7.** Next week we begin our Advent series, *The In-Between*. Do you have an Advent tradition that you practice? Please share your practice with your group.

**Read for next week:** Matthew 1:18-25