

EZRA + NEHEMIAH

Restoring Foundations

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Restoring Reputation

NEHEMIAH 5:1-19

Your reputation is what people know about you before you ever make yourself known.



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ECCLESIASTES 7:1

“A good name is better than a good ointment.”

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A city without walls is a city of embarrassment, not salvation.

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NEHEMIAH 2:17

“You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.”

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1 SAMUEL 16:7

“...for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

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We must not only learn how to love one another, but we must also learn how to love others more than we love ourselves.

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NEHEMIAH 5:1

“Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brother.”

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NEHEMIAH 4:20

“At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

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OUTCRY

This word “outcry” is the same word used to describe the Israelites complaint against the burden of Egyptian oppression (**Exodus 3:9**).

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Exacting usury was a practice of not only lending money at extremely high interest, but also lending against a pledge.

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LEVITICUS 25:35-36

“Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or sojourner, that he may live with you. Do not take usurious interest from him, but revere your God, that your countryman may live with you.”

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NEHEMIAH 5:6

“Then I was very angry when I had heard their outcry and these words.”

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Nehemiah knew that a **restored wall** surrounding a **restored Temple** was essential, but his raw emotion (*in verse 6*) reveals that it is a **restored people** that matters most to a **restored reputation**.

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MARK 3:24

“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.”

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Nehemiah's response in **verses 7-13** is a wonderful parallel to the same instructions given to us on reconciliation in **Matthew 18:15-17**.

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JAMES 1:19

“But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.”

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JOHN 3:20-21

“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

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Nehemiah exposed their sin for the sole purposes of ultimately exposing God's righteousness.

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“Remember me, O my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.”

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D.L. MOODY

“A holy life will produce the deepest impression.
Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine.”

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The most fulfilling and rewarding gift is the giving of ourselves for the benefit of another.

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