



Mount Vernon  
Baptist Church

# Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

## REBUILDING my BROKEN WORLD



Through Nehemiah

# Taking Charge

## Nehemiah 2:9-18

**What are you living with today that you have simply tried to ignore?**

**What are the broken walls of your life that have been broken for some time and you are continuing to live with them instead of doing something about them?**

Nehemiah was able to come in and help the people of Israel see the problem of the broken walls and rally them toward rebuilding the walls in such a way so as to not offend them, but rather inspire them.

That teenager needs extra attention. That child needs to be raised in the ways of the Lord. You are not serving the Lord in His church as you ought. There are personal goals and aspirations that need to be nurtured. You need the courage to invite that coworker to church or give a witness for Christ.

**After you have prayed, what are the steps to take charge and be part of the solution?**

### 1. Isolate the **“WHAT”** (2:11-12)

**Nehemiah 2:11–12 (NKJV) — 11** So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. **12** Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one **what** my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

- Nehemiah knew his goal. What is it that God has put in your heart?
- You cannot do everything, but you can do that which God has put on your heart.
- What’s your goal? “I want to get out of debt.” “I want to have a more consistent quiet time each day with the Lord.” “I have physical goals that will help me get in better shape.”
- You will never accomplish anything if you have 3,000 “whats” that are distracting you.

## 2. Investigate the **“HOW”** (2:13-16)

**Nehemiah 2:13 (NKJV) — 13** And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and **viewed** the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

- He’s going out at night, not telling anyone.
- The walls were between 1 ½ miles and 2 ½ miles in diameter. They were thick enough to have chariot races on top.
- Often we want to know God’s will, but sometimes it is as simple as gathering facts. Surveying the surrounding the field.
- V. 13 “viewed” is a Hebrew verb which can be translated ‘to carefully observe.’ It is a verb that is used in the medical profession to describe the probing of a wound to determine not only the damage but also the action needed for healing to take place. <sup>a</sup>

## 3. Inspire the **“WHO”** (2:17-18)

**Nehemiah 2:17–18 (NKJV) — 17** Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” **18** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.

Proper timing – Verse 11 says he is there three days before saying anything to anyone.

1. He’s doing more than simply stating reality. He is telling them how all of them can solve the problem.
2. He doesn’t say “YOU,” he says “WE” (v. 17 – “we” and “us”)

Harry Gordon Selfridge, a department store magnate, once wrote:

***“The boss drives people; the leader coaches them.***

***The boss depends on authority; the leader on goodwill.***

***The boss says ‘I’; the leader says ‘We.’***

***The boss fixes the blame for the breakdown; the leader fixes the breakdown.***

***The boss knows how it is done; the leader shows how.***

***The boss says, ‘Go’; the leader says, ‘Let’s go!’”<sup>b</sup>***

## 4. Identify the **“WHY”** (2:17-18)

They could respond, “We see the walls – why should we rebuild now?”

1. This is a God opportunity (2:18) God cares about these walls.
2. “Aren’t you tired of being an embarrassment?”
  - 1 Corinthians 10:31 – Do all for the glory of God.
  - We are God’s people. These walls represent God’s care and concern for His people.

***(v.18) - So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.***

<sup>a</sup> Stephen Davey, *Wisdom Commentary Series: Nehemiah* (Apex, NC: Charity House, 2012), 56.

<sup>b</sup> As quoted in John Maxwell, *Be a People Person* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2007), 95.