



## Nehemiah: The Wall Builder

### **Examine** your brokenness. Dismount if necessary!

"I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. <sup>13</sup> By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; <sup>15</sup> so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup> The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work."  
- Nehemiah 2:11-16 (NIV 1984)

### Prepare for rebuilding **opposition**.

"But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. 'What is this you are doing?' they asked. 'Are you rebelling against the king?'"  
- Nehemiah 2:19 (NIV 1984)

Be in **"next to"** community. (Nehemiah 3)

Nehemiah Series #2 / week 1

Pastor Scott Stevens

March 10-11, 2012

### Taken

"...you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf. <sup>20</sup> Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf."  
- Leviticus 22:19-20

### Blessed

"You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you."  
- Leviticus 1:4

"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." - Psalm 51:17

### Broken

"...This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." - Exodus 24:8

### Given

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'" - Matthew 26:26

### Small Group Questions

1. How adept are you at examining your own brokenness? Do you currently have an accountability partner, someone that you have given permission to speak into your life?
2. Agree or disagree with the following statement: The longer we live with our brokenness the more difficult it is to confront. Why do you think that?
3. How many of these forms of Christian Community are you "next to?"
  - I attend church; I am in a Small Group; I am serving somewhere; I have a Christian mentor; I am a Christian mentor. (What other forms of Godly community are there?)
4. If you are currently in a small group how can you become a tighter community?
5. Read Mathew 26:26 & 27. Consider taking communion together at your next Small Group Gathering.