

*Alignment*

*Rebuild*

Nehemiah 2:17

**EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

**KEY VERSES**

*Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace."*

**REFLECTION**

We began this *Rebuild* series by thinking about we can listen for the call of God for each of our lives. Last week, we began thinking about how we can put our sense of burden into action. Just as Nehemiah toured every inch of the wall before making any decisions, we too should plan carefully so what we are rebuilding is better than before.

***During this time of disorientation, in what areas have you been drawn to learn and pay more attention? How do you sense this preparation building into a plan?***

In order to be ready to affect change, we should pay attention to the alignment between what we **say** and what we actually **do**. Every one of us is called to be a leader in some way. Nehemiah reveals something critical about leadership – that it is not about telling others what to do, but doing it *yourself* and inviting other people to come do it *with you*. ***What things in your life motivate and inspire you to lead by example? In what areas do you feel hesitant or uncomfortable but need to grow?***

Verse 17 shows Nehemiah's actions in alignment with his words: *"You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace."* He has given up his comfortable life to become "we" among the people of Jerusalem. He joins them, exposed and vulnerable, yet willing to share in their identity because he has put his burden into action. ***Have you felt called to join others outside your comfort zone because of a burden or conviction? Where are your words, actions, and beliefs best in alignment?***

*Heavenly Father, thank you for teaching us through Nehemiah that when we listen for your voice, You fill us with energy, wisdom, and strength beyond our understanding. May we hear your voice calling us to be the leader you have created us to be, and may we lead others through inviting them to walk alongside us. Amen*