

NEHEMIAH

PART 1 ~ REBUILDER OF THE WALLS

TOOL TIME

Pastor George Dupree – February 6, 2011

The walls of Jerusalem were broken and the gates were burned with fire, the inhabitants were defenseless. The temple had been destroyed and plundered. Nehemiah, an ordinary man, did something to change all of this. Nehemiah was a descendant of the people who were carried away as captives to Babylon about 150 years earlier. He was a cupbearer to the King. His job was one of the better ones. He didn't have to do anything about his homeland, but he did.

He's like James of the New Testament times who said, "faith without works is dead". He knew he had to **do** something.

Nehemiah, the rebuilders of the walls straps on his tool belt and goes to work!

In our tool belt we have all kinds of tools and each one has a specific purpose. If your tools are limited your work will be limited. If you don't know how to use your tools your results will be limited.

A basic tool-belt will have:

A Ruler – a standard for measurement, always the same, reliable. That's like our Bible, the standard by which we rule our lives.

A Hammer – a powerful striker. That's like the Holy Spirit, a powerful force in us.

To rebuild lives you need the Bible and the Holy Spirit and you also need Compassion, which is sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others from the Latin *compati* 'suffer with.'

In order to be modern day Nehemiah's

We have to _____ About What God Cares About

† Psalm 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

† Psalm 9:18 But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

We Have To _____ What God Loves – He Loves People

† Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd, So He began to teach them many things.

† Mark 1:41 Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

In your tool-belt you need the Bible, the Holy Spirit and Compassion, a big heart, you need a handkerchief too so you can wipe away the tears and the soil of life in order to restore dignity back into a life that has lost it.

Walls represent safety and peace. The walls of peoples lives are broken down, we are called to rebuild the walls.