



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis  
January 27, 2013  
**re: build**

## desert breeze community church

### Nehemiah 1:1-11 "Brokenness"

Everyone has experienced something of brokenness i.e. heart, home, health, finances, dreams, relationships, etc. It's brokenness that keeps us from receiving and giving God's amazing love and reaching our full potential.

#### **Background:**

**Setting:** 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Israel has been defeated over a century earlier and they had been scattered in the ancient world. Israelites are allowed to return to rebuild.

**Problem:** Living in fear because the city walls are broken down. They are defenseless and discouraged.

**Author:** Nehemiah, cup bearer for the King of Persia leads the people to rebuild the wall in 52 days.

**Agenda:** Chapters 1-7 Rebuilding of the Wall. Chapters 8-13 Revival of the People.

#### **What is Brokenness?** Vv1-4

- Brokenness = Reduced to fragments; fragmented. Ruptured; torn; fractured. Not functioning properly; out of working order. V3; Pro25:28; Ps34:18
- Anguish = Extreme pain & distress. Emotions so stirred it's becomes painful. Acutely deeply felt inner pain because of conditions about you, in you or around you. v4
- What we anguish over reveals what we truly value. Pro4:23
- As Christians we should be sad & joyful at the same time more than most because the longer we walk with Christ the more we will be in touch with reality. John 10:10; Matt23:37-39; Jn16:21-24, 33

**How God Heals My Brokenness?** Vv5-11; Ps34:17-18, 147:3-4; Heb12:15 Characteristics of prayer that touches the Father's heart:

- Conviction of who God is. Vv5-6a
- Confession of what I (we) have done. Vv6b-7
- Confidence in what God has promised. Vv8-10
- Commitment to do whatever it takes. V11



# Growing

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- 1) Everyone has experienced something of brokenness i.e. heart, home, health, etc. We're all broken, we just mask it differently. Explain. How does brokenness keep us from receiving and giving God's amazing love and reaching our full potential?
- 2) Review the background of Nehemiah from the sermon notes and read chapter one. Anything in particular stand out to you? What was the bad news that Nehemiah received (v3)?
- 3) How can sins that we commit or sins committed against us or around us (living in a fallen world) cause our lives not to function properly (brokenness)? Brokenness can lead to anguish. What is anguish and how much anguish was Nehemiah going through over the bad news (v4)?
- 4) What we anguish over reveals what we truly value. Explain. Why do you think that the longer we walk with Christ the more we should be sad & joyful at the same time more than most (John10:10; Matt23:37-39; Jn16:21-24, 33)?
- 5) Why is it important not to let our brokenness become bitterness (Heb12:15)? It's amazing what God can do with our brokenness when we give Him all the pieces (Ps34:17-18, 147:3-4). Explain. Review & then pray through the characteristics that touch the Father's heart (at end of the sermon notes) for you, your family, the db family, our city & our country.