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CALLING AMERICA BACK TO GOD

Nehemiah 1:1-3

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Introduction:

Historical Setting: the nation of Israel has been taken captive and Nehemiah gets a report from Jerusalem about the condition of the city and the people there.

I believe our nation has been taken captive by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

God gave us abundance we have turned it to greed.

God gave us freedom we have turned it to license.

The country was dedicated by our founding fathers to God, but there are strong forces and voices out there today that would have God removed from every public arena.

We need recovery where we have been taken captive.

We need revival where there is no life.

We need to rebuild where walls have been torn down.

Nehemiah goes back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls around the city.

We need walls of protection,
separation,
conservation,
identification.

Rebuild in our nation with the gates of liberty and freedom.

Nehemiah did 3 things to be able to rebuild the walls. I believe we need these same 3 things in America.

I. Nehemiah was able to visualize the needs (Cha 1:1-3)

1. He saw that the walls of defense had fallen. In 1808 John Coran said: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

There are 9 steps toward growth and disintegration of a nation or society.

1. From bondage to spiritual faith
2. From spiritual faith to courage
3. From courage to liberty
4. From liberty to abundance
5. From abundance to selfishness
6. From selfishness to complacency
7. From complacency to apathy
8. From apathy to dependence
9. From dependence back to bondage.

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2. He saw that the walls of decency had fallen.
50% of Americans say those who have children out of wedlock should not be subjected to moral reproach of any kind.
Ages 18-34 – 70% said that there should be no judgment as to whether or not a couple should be married to have a baby.

There are 4 questions that are asked today.

1. Does character make any difference in the election of public officials?
2. Does wisdom make a difference in the election of public officials?
3. Does example make a difference in the election of public officials?
4. Does trust make a difference in the election of public officials?

3. He saw that the walls of doctrine had fallen.
We are told that we must tolerate a new and modern Gospel for a new and modern age.

II. Nehemiah agonized over the needs (Ch 1:4-11)

4 elements of Nehemiah's prayer:

1. It was a prayer of contrition (v 4)
"He sat down and wept and mourned for many days"
Someone has described the church today as a "dry-eyed church in a hell-bent world."
2. It was a prayer of confession (vv 5-7)
 - a. He confessed their national sin
 - b. He confessed their personal sin.
". . . and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against you. Both my father's house and I have sinned."
"If my people . . ." 2 Chronicles 7:14
3. It was a prayer of confidence (vv. 8-10)
4. It was a prayer of commitment (v. 11)

III Nehemiah organized to meet the needs (Chapter 2)

Nehemiah did 3 things to organize:

1. He sought the King's permission (vv 5,6)
2. He received the King's protection (v 7)
3. He obtained the King's provision (v 8)

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Conclusion: God does business with those who mean business.

We sometimes can't win the game for stumbling over our own players.

We give without sacrifice. We pray without fasting.

We witness without tears. No wonder we sow without reaping!

The question to ask is: **God what are you saying to me?**