

Let Us Rise Up and Build¹

Nehemiah 2:17, 18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Why Nehemiah was a successful model of greatness:
 - a. His motives were pure.
 - b. His sympathies were generous.
 - c. His spirit was devout.
2. Nehemiah made an appeal to his people that motivated greater involvement and greater work.

DISCUSSION: Concerning the appeal of Nehemiah, please note...

I. The Ground

- A. Patriotism, pity, and piety
- B. "God's city is desolate!"
- C. "You see" (v. 17). The fact was patent.
- D. Our need is also obvious.

II. The Nature

- A. Solicited personal effort: "Come, let us *build*"
 1. The time for work had come.
 2. All kinds of work needed to be done.
- B. Promised personal aid: "Come, let *us* build"
 1. Not "go," but "come"; not "you," but "us"
 2. Personal example is always more powerful than personal authority.

III. The Motive

- A. The leader urged "that we may no longer suffer derision" (v. 18).
- B. Our challenge may be different, but a reproach may be involved.
- C. If we do not build, we cannot grow; and no growth is a reproach!

IV. The Encouragement

- A. Hear Nehemiah: "Then I said to them..." (v. 17); "And I told them..." (v. 18)
- B. God was the Instigator of the work.
- C. The king approved the work.

V. The Success

- A. The response was prompt: "And they said..." (v. 18).
- B. The response was practical: "Let us rise up and build" (v. 18).
- C. The response was unanimous: "Let *us* rise up..." (v. 18).

CONCLUSION: What if Nehemiah were making such an appeal to this assembly today?

¹ Adapted from material by Booth, Goodman, and Gregory in *The Preacher's Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, reprinted 1974), pp. 5-59.