

**SERMON SERIES:** Old School  
**SPEAKER:** Scott Beckenhauer  
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## Key Line

Repentance leads to restoration.

## Introduction

The truths found in the word of God can show us God's faithfulness to people throughout history and encourage us today in difficult situations that we face.

- Do you ever struggle to remain consistently close to God?
- What do you think creates that distance from God in your life? Why does it happen?

## Seek the Word

Read Nehemiah 1:4-7 and 9:2-3.

- What happened in Israel before Nehemiah's time? (*Babylon was conquered, the people were taken to Babylon as captives.*)
- Cyrus had allowed some of them to return to restore the temple, but they eventually got discouraged and fell away from God in the process. They went through times when they were close to God and following him and other times when they fell away. Who was Nehemiah? (*He was the cupbearer to the king in Babylon.*)
- By Nehemiah's time, the people were struggling again, falling away from God. Nehemiah began praying for his people in Nehemiah 1:4-7. What did he pray about? (*Nehemiah confessed and repented for the sins of his people.*)
- When the king saw how sad Nehemiah was, he allowed Nehemiah to return to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. When Nehemiah returned to organize the people, the wall was rebuilt in 52 days. Why do you think they rebuilt it so quickly and efficiently after Nehemiah returned? (*He re-energized them and returned their focus to God. He organized them well to get the work done quickly. He instructed them to build and keep their swords on them so that they could fight when anyone from the outside opposed them.*)
- How did their attitude toward God change when Nehemiah entered the rebuilding project? (*They confessed, repented, and returned their hearts toward God. They recommitted to restoration of their relationship with God. They admitted their own struggles and faults and turned their hearts over to God again. They refocused on the project he had planned for them.*)

## Talk About It

- What are some things that distract you and pull your focus away from God?
- How have the current events in the world affected your relationship with God?
- What will you do today to shift your attention back onto God?
- What is God calling you to in your life today?