

Let Us Rise Up and Build *(Pastor John T. Kurien)*

The book of Nehemiah is an autobiography. He tells of how he wept and mourned certain days, and also fasted and prayed before the God of heaven (Nehemiah 1:4). He confessed his own sins as well as sins of his people. His heartache was not for any of his personal problems but for the people of God. He heard from the brethren that the people of God were in great affliction, the wall of Jerusalem had been broken down, and that the gates were burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3). His prayer was not to send somebody else to Jerusalem to restore the city, but he was ready to sacrifice a fine position for the good of the cause (Nehemiah 2:5). We should be ready to suffer when the hand of God is revealed in our own life or the lives of other people. Even though enemies grieved Nehemiah exceedingly, he was not discouraged or disappointed but told them, “Let us build up the wall of Salem, that we be no more a reproach” (Nehemiah 2:17). The people of God answered, “He will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build” (Nehemiah 2:20).

Matthew 25:40 says, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” Once an American ambassador found himself stranded in a remote area of a foreign country after his car broke down. Luckily, he met a foreign national who was able to repair his car. When the native later received a commendation for the service to the USA, the ambassador explained: “when you served me, you served my country.” Our actions toward a believer are the same as actions toward the King, our Lord. Beloved, let us increase in our fellowship and serve each other so that His name may be glorified in the city of Chicago and elsewhere.