

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of Stewardship to the congregation

NOVEMBER 2017

In 586 B.C., the army of Babylon destroyed the wall around Jerusalem and their house of worship, the great Temple. Sadly, many of the Jews in Jerusalem were marched back to Babylonia and made slaves. Some seventy years later, the Persian army defeated the Babylonians and the Jews in Babylonia were set free. Most returned to Jerusalem and soon afterwards they began to rebuild the house of God.

For some reason they did not immediately rebuild the wall around the city. It remained in ruins. That bothered a man named Nehemiah. He passionately began to encourage the people to restore the wall around the city. After all, God's house, the Temple, needed protection as well as the inhabitants. Before long, various families took the responsibility to rebuild a particular section. There were many obstacles, but they got the job done. Here is what Nehemiah later wrote: "So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was joined together ...for the people had a mind to work." (Neh.4:6)

This was stewardship! Anytime we use our minds and bodies and time and talent to create or serve or share, we are exercising good stewardship. How do we know the joy of stewardship? We know it when we do our part to do God's work. When the wall around Jerusalem was finished, Jeremiah gathered the people together and said: "The joy of the Lord is your strength." (Neh. 8:10) Then they had a feast for everyone. They had a true thanksgiving. And so may we, when we have a mind to work for God and those in need. Read more in this month's *Stewardship*!

"A Stewardship Minute" is provided as a supplement to the Stewardship newsletter as part of your subscription. It can be read by the pastor, stewardship leader or lay reader during worship to briefly introduce and remind the congregation about the principles of stewardship each month. It may also be edited to fit specific needs. Used in this manner, it can significantly increase the general understanding of true giving.

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