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MAKE A STAND

In the book of Nehemiah, we see the story of a King's cup bearer, a slave, that turned into a Savior for the nation of Israel. When he heard of the reproach that was happening in Jerusalem because of the gates being burned and the wall being torn down he was distraught. He went to God in prayer, mourning, fasting, and weeping. He repented for the sin of himself, his family, and his nation of Israel. God heard his prayer.

Nehemiah risked everything for the country that he loved. Because he made a stand everything changed. His **first stand** was in the presence of the King. Nehemiah was a captive in the land of Babylon in the city of Shushan. He had been taken there when they conquered Israel. (Israel had gone into captivity because of their sin. They had been warned to repent of their sin, but they did not listen.) Now he stood before the King and requested help for his "people."

The **second stand** he made was with those that didn't want change. They wanted to control the situation in Jerusalem and did not want anyone telling them what to do. They didn't care if it was in rubble. The enemies came against Nehemiah, but he withstood all of their vicious attacks. He stood against their lies, bribery, and intimidation. He did not listen to them. He listened to God and stayed the course.

The **third stand** was to stand in front of the people and encourage them to rebuild the wall. They were in distress. They had mortgaged their lands and their children had been sold to their fellow Jews as slaves to pay their debt. It is difficult if your belly is empty to think of doing anything to bring change to an already terrible situation. They were broke; what could they do?

The **fourth stand** was against the rich Jews that had caused their brethren to go into bondage. He withstood them, telling what they had done was wrong and they relented and released all of the debt.

One man gathered the people together, made a stand for righteousness. In 52 days, the wall was restored, and the gates rebuilt. He brought them together into agreement and helped them renew their covenant with God.

What would happen if a few Christians stood up and said enough is enough in America? What if they repented, mourned, prayed, fasted, and made a stand against those trying to take America down? Can it happen? Yes, but only if repentance comes first.

Are you willing to make a stand for God, or are you ready to see America destroyed? I pray you choose wisely. As the old song goes, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back. If none go with me, still I will follow. No turning back. No turning back." There is a price to pay to maintain freedom. The price? Everything, but God will be with you!