

COME, LET US REBUILD

Key Verse: 2:17

“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

Thanks God for his abundant grace with powerful words of God throughout GLEF 2021- from its preparation right after GLEF 2020 to this very day to close GLEF 2021. Please do not misunderstand that GLE Forum is like just a week Bible Conference. Not at all. GLE Forum is a leadership training program to empower NG to be spiritual leaders.

God has blessed GLEF 2021 with the powerful messages and Group Bible studies on the whole Mark’s gospel, Case studies, the stories behind hymns, FS presentations and so on. In fact, these are the fruits; the result of GLEF 2020. Over the past year, even during the pandemic, we all had struggled to practice Nehemiah’s leadership through IBS Workshop, FS&CF&Question Makings, and Thank God for precious World mission co-workers in Bonn, Moscow, and Turkey who had struggled to practice Nehemiah’s leadership

GLEF 2021 is not going to end here today. Today will be the practical beginning of GLEF 2021 by putting what we have learned into practice. In this way, we will grow to be global spiritual leaders with authority like Jesus. Otherwise, all what we have learned will be nothing but head knowledge. Thought we have learned many things, here I want to remind of Jesus’ leadership with authority based on 5 lessons.

In Lesson1, Jesus’ leadership with authority comes from his hope and vision for the ordinary sinners. Thank God for M. Joel Park’s spiritual struggle and victory by completing his message. He founds God’s great hope for him to be a shepherd like Jesus. God may bless his decision to get up and follow Jesus by trusting God’s hope and vision for him.

In Lesson2, Jesus’ leadership comes from his compassion for the crowd. M. Maria Chang testified that she could serve smart medical students with authority as a shepherd when she followed Jesus’ example. Such authority does not come from human achievement or knowledge, but from the compassionate heart for one lost soul.

In Lesson3, Jesus’ leadership comes from his life of serving and life of giving. Thank God for Samuel Hong’s decision to be a missionary. God may equip him with Jesus’ servanthship, so that he may serve and even give his life to save many lives in Maxico.

In Lesson 4, Jesus’ leadership comes from his faith in God almighty. M. Peter Ryu testified how Dr. Peter Chang and Bonn UBF co-workers have overcome all hindrances and obstacles and stood strong to be the disciple making center for the world mission by faith in God only.

In Lesson 5, Jesus’ leadership comes from his absolute obedience to the death on a cross. Jesus’ obedience to death gave Samuel Chang the new life with mission by setting him free from

sin, even from tick problem. Jesus' obedience empowered him to obey God's word and delivered the message of God with spirit and power though he was 18 years old. Such spiritual authority does not come from its ages or talents, but its obedience to the word of God.

God called Nehemiah to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. The mission was not only to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, but also to rebuild Israelites to be a kingdom of priests. Under his leadership, Israel had rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days. Moreover, Israelites had kept their identity as God's people even through the darkest time until Jesus, the promised Messiah came.

As he called Nehemiah for his generation, God has called each of us to be spiritual leaders through learning Jesus' leadership for this generation. It is to rebuild the broken spiritual wall of our nations; the broken spiritual wall of our ministries, and our campuses.

Let us read 2:17-18 "Then I said to them, "You see the troubles we are in; Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."

To the Israelites, Jerusalem had been the center of their lives, the symbol of their identity and pride as God's people for centuries. However, for long years the wall of Jerusalem had lied in ruins since the Babylonians invasion in 605 BC. The God's people in Jerusalem were sitting ducks because their city wall had been broken down and they lost their identity. This city had been the holy city where God dwelt with his people and where his people praised and worshiped the Lord, but it was not anymore! It has been where the words of God were proclaimed and where the glory of God was revealed, but it was not anymore! This city turned out to be a laughing stock to the enemies of God. God's people were humiliated, despised, and ignored. For long years, they were used to live in disgrace and had no desire to rebuild it. The enemies and thieves freely came in and out and plunder the city. The glory of God had been taken away.

Just as Jerusalem, our countries, our churches, our campuses, our families have been attacked, robbed, and destroyed by the enemies such as materialism, humanism, individualism, and all kinds of ideas of the world. John Frame, the author of "A History of western philosophy and theology," tells that the western intellectual condition had been changed from belief to unbelief since they rejected the authority of the Bible. It has become secularized.

America was a shepherd nation and a missionary sending nation, called a City on a hill. But it is not anymore. In America, it's illegal to stop a man who believes he is a woman to enter a woman's rocker room. No one can say a word against a lesbian mother who raises her son as if he is a girl. Black lives are matters but spiritual lives are not matter at all. In the name of Humanism, no one can hurt others feeling or emotion. America kicks God out of school by ruling that school-sponsored prayer is unconstitutional and banding to teach creation science.

UBF had been a student movement which trained and raised spiritual leaders through 1:1 Bible Study and Discipleship ministry. She was full of the spirit of world mission, the spirit of giving, and the spirit of serving. Then, God had greatly used her for his world mission, especially world campus mission. But, when she has become like a church organization, she loses its spiritual power as the student movement.

In 2001, the World Trade Center (Twine Tower) in New York, one of the tallest buildings in the world, the pride of America, the symbol of the power of dollar, was attacked by terrorists and destroyed. It had surprised the world. It really hurt the pride of Americans. To regain her honor and respect, with all possible way and with all her power, she had traced the terrorist and finally destroyed them. Also, she had built a new building, Freedom tower which is taller than Twine Tower. In this way, America has sent a clear message to the enemies: "If anyone attacks America, she will look for you, will find you, and destroy you." Even the people in the world could not bear the same and disgrace. They use all power to restore their honor and respect. What about God's honor? What about God's glory? Like the people in Jerusalem, are we used to live in disgrace?

How can we rebuild this broken spiritual wall of America, Germany, Moscow, Turkey, and the spiritual wall of UBF ministry? What can we learn from Nehemiah who rebuild the wall of Jerusalem – actually rebuild the people of God? What steps should we take to rebuild our nations and UBF ministry?

First, we should begin with prayer. Nehemiah 1:4 read "When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." Out of compassion, Nehemiah acknowledged and confessed his sins and the sins of forefathers that had brought destruction to Jerusalem. Out of compassion on the people in Jerusalem, Nehemiah prayed. It was not habitual prayer, but earnest prayer of repentance with mourning and fasting for 4 moths. How does this prayer relate to leadership? This prayer teaches us how to put Jesus' compassion into practice. We may not judge or look down the weak; we may not condemn others who are in disgrace because of their sins problems; we may not be indifference of their suffering and pain. Rather, we may have compassion on them as Jesus had compassion on us; we may pray from our deep heart as Nehemiah prayed. We may pray with sincere repentance for this nation, this campus, and especially we may prayer for one lost sheep. That is How we practice Jesus' leadership in our lives.

Second, we should have faith in God almighty; have faith in God's promise. Nehemiah claimed God's promise to bring his people back to himself no matter how far they had been scattered if they return to him and obey his command. Nehemiah had faith in God that God would restore Israel as the kingdom of priests. Jesus had faith in God that God would save sinners through his death and resurrection and restore sinners into God's people. Because their faith, they risked all, even their lives for the mission. Do you truly believe that America will be a shepherd nation again? Do you really believe Germany, Moscow, and Turkey the Moslem nation will be a kingdom of priests? Without such faith, it is impossible to lead anyone. It is really great spiritual struggle against all doubts. Thank God for raise up 5 messengers, and 6 men of God in NJ. I truly believe that Joel will be a great compassionated shepherd; Joseph Lee will be a great servant of the word of God; Noah Yoo, Daniel Yoo, Abraham will be Spiritual leaders with authority; Daniel Gate will be great spiritual leader. By faith in God, I may risk my life to raise them into spiritual leaders for the next generation. By faith in God, we may devote your lives to world campus mission. That is how we practice Jesus' leadership that comes from his faith in God.

Over the past year, COVID-19 Pandemic has had impact on our lives. It seems like COVID-19 has stop everything. In fact, it has shaken churches off all kinds of fellowship-oriented activities. Then, church members have declined sharply and many churches had been closed. Then, people come to realize the important of God's mission and disciple making ministry in church. Thank God for his amazing providence that he had led us to study the Bible and to mobilize NG to be the spiritual leaders through GLE Forum. Though there have been many hindrances, nothing, even COVID-19, could stop us because we are carrying on the great project - Rebuilding the spiritual wall of our nations, America, Germany, CIS, and Turkey. As God did in Nehemiah's day, the Lord may raise each of us to be the spiritual leaders with authority to rebuild the spiritual wall of our nations.

Thirdly, we should go back to the Bible. As M. John shared in his message, Ezra made decision to study the bible and to be faithful to put the word of God into practice. Ezra and Nehemiah worked together to teach the word of God and worship God. In Nehemiah Ch9, all leaders including Ezra and Nehemiah and all Israelites stood and read the Bible for 3 hours. After that, they wrote sincere repentant testimonies and share it for another 3 hours. The word of God brought spiritual revival among them to worship and praise God. The word of God restored them and maintained them as God's people.

What does "Go Back to the Bible" means to us? First of all, we may study the Bible until we deeply and personally have the word of God in our hearts. Through GLEF, God gives us the excellent tools to study the bible such as IBS, FS & CF & Question Making. Personally, I have done much Bible Study through 3 years GLEF more than the Bible study I had done in 20 years of my mission life. In this way, I myself could rebuild my life of mission on the word of truth. Thank God for M. Joseph Lee and many others decision to gather DB faithful, to write deep personal testimony, and to study and to teach the word of God faithfully. Nothing could be more urgent than building up our lives on the word of God. "Let us go back to the Bible."

We may go back to the ministry of the gospel of Jesus, instead of doing many activities. We may preach and teach the word of God through 1:1 Bible study as the matter of life and death. We may go back to the disciple-making ministry as Jesus called, trained and raised the disciples. That was how Jesus carried out God's mission. "Go Back to the Bible" in this way, we may preach the gospel of Jesus to the end of the earth.

"Go back to the Bible" means to obey the word of God as the absolute word of God. Jesus' absolute obedience teaches us what it means to go back to the Bible. Obedience to the word of God is how we practice Jesus' leadership that comes from his obedience – obedience even to the death. Through GLEF, we have received the words of God and made decisions of faith. Now we should carry out our decisions. We may carry out our decisions of faith; we may carry out this campus mission and world mission with absolute obedience to the word of God. When we carry out this campus mission in such way, surely we will grow to be a spiritual leader with the authority that calls, trains, and raises the disciples of Jesus.

"Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem." This encouraging and visionary message empowered and mobilized such powerless people to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.

“Come, let us rebuild the spiritual wall of America, Germany, Russia, and Turkey.”
“Come, let us rebuild the spiritual wall of our UBF ministry!” This is the message for us for our generation. The message of God may inspire the NG to participate in this great project to rebuild the wall together.

Now, Today is not the end of GLEF 2021. Rather, it is beginning of GLEF 2021. Let us Start GLEF 2021 by put the word of God into practice. Let us carry out this great project from God – Rebuild America to be shepherd nation again.

One word: Let us rebuild America, Germany, Russia, and Turkey to be a kingdom of priests