

BROKENNESS HAPPENS!

Nehemiah 1:1-4a, 11

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: Some broken things can never be put back together. *But some broken things can.* And when they are put back together, they can be stronger than before. Finger jointed studs are a great example. Lumber houses used to throw broken studs away. But they discovered something. You can take broken pieces of lumber, lumber that would've been worthless, lumber that should've been pitched, and you can cut finger joints into the end pieces and glue them together. Now you have a totally usable 2x4. And here's the amazing thing: that new piece of lumber is stronger than if it had never been broken. *We see this played out in Nehemiah 1:1-4.* As the book of Nehemiah opens, we see a broken nation. In fact, it appears they're so utterly broken, they can never be put back together. And yet, the first thing we notice is that there is a God in heaven that specializes in taking broken things, fixing them so they're stronger than if they'd never been broken in the first place. This morning, as we start this book, we want to look at God's story of restoration in five acts. But before we can appreciate his restoring grace, we must first appreciate the reality of brokenness.

1. Israel's brokenness

Nehemiah 1:1-4

2. God's restoration – Five resources God uses

Nehemiah 1:1-4a

3. Idea

4. Takeaways