

BUILDING THE WALLS

PART 1: "PERCEIVE THE PROBLEM"

4 parts...

- Part 1 - Perceive the Problem
- Part 2 - Plan & Procure
- Part 3 – Proceed & Produce
- Part 4 – Protect & Preserve

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Setting up the story...

- Ezra/Nehemiah
- Babylonian Exile – many returning
- Persian Leadership (444 BC)
- Ezra started the walls; the king said no.
- Temple rebuilt; more needed
- Nehemiah is a story of how, when and why the walls were rebuilt.

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 1:1-3 (The Problem)

“²...one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 1:4-11a (The Response)

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and **wept** and **mourned** for days, and I continued **fasting** and **praying** before the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments..."

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 1:4-11a (The Response)

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your **servant** that I now **pray** before you **day and night** for the people of Israel your **servants**, **confessing** the sins of the people of Israel, which **we** have sinned against you. **Even I** and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ **We** have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 1:4-11a (The Response)

⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your **servant** Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, **to make my name dwell there.**’

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 1:4-11a (The Response)

¹⁰ They are your **servants** and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your **servant**, and to the prayer of your **servants** who delight to fear your name, and give success to your **servant** today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 1:4-11a (The Response)

- Wept and mourned for days
- Prayed and fasted
- He confessed himself & on behalf of the people
 - “We” and “I”
- Servanthood (This is God’s Kingdom!)

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 2:1-5 (Asking Permission)

1:11^b Now I was cupbearer to the king.

...when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, “Let the king live forever!

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 2:1-5 (Asking Permission)

Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴ Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."

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Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Neh. 2:1-5 (Asking Permission)

- Nehemiah's position was perfect
 - God was at work preparing the RIGHT person
- Recognized the human leadership in his life
 - “Fear” and “respect”

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Nehemiah...

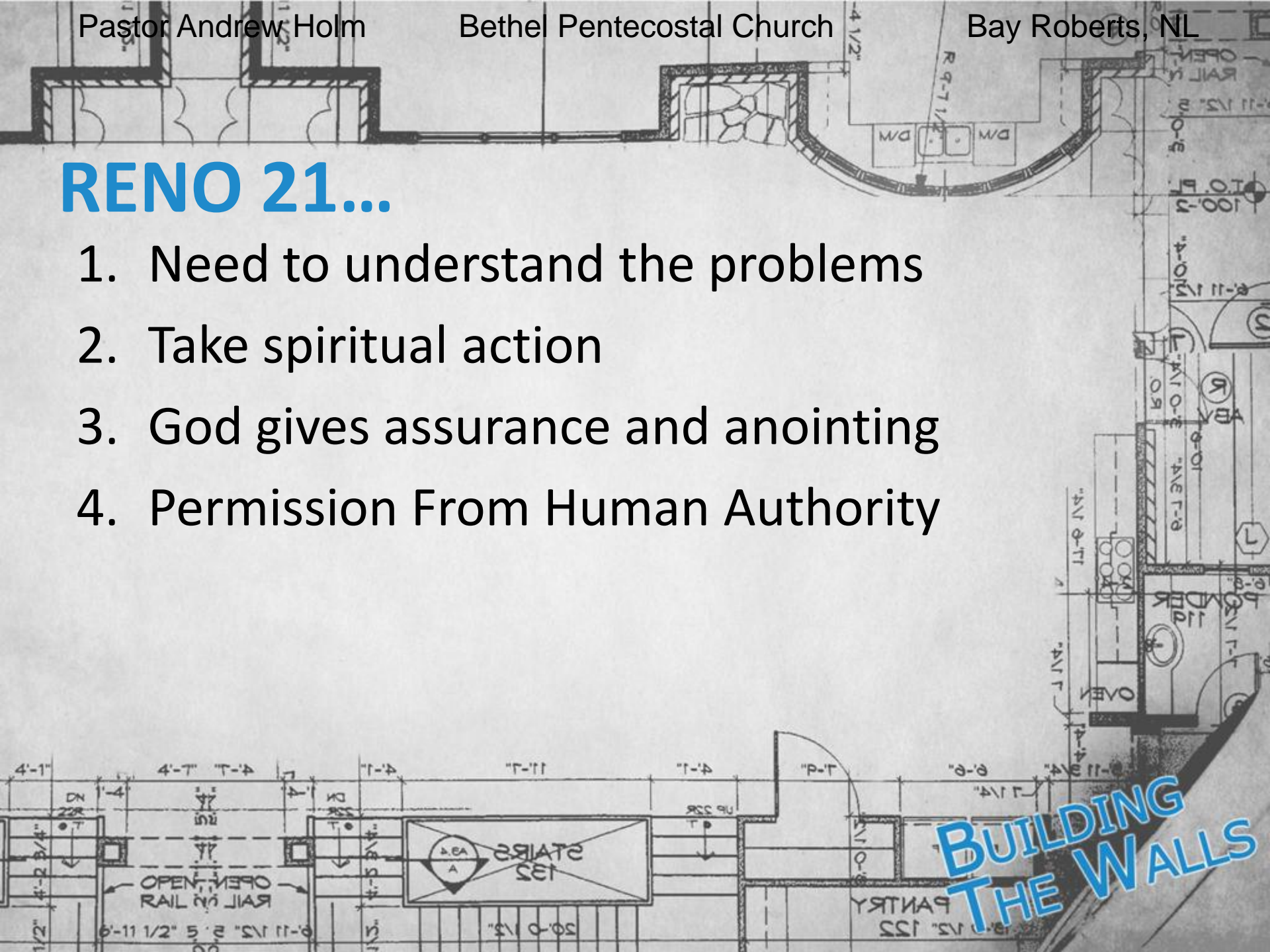
1. Understood the need
2. Responded to the need (Spiritual action)
3. God called
4. Permission From Human Authority

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RENO 21...

1. Need to understand the problems
2. Take spiritual action
3. God gives assurance and anointing
4. Permission From Human Authority

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Our lives...

1. Need to understand the problems
2. Take spiritual action
3. God gives assurance and anointing
4. Permission From Human Authority

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Do we know the problems around us; how are we responding and/or reacting?

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