

Sermon 01: "The Man Who Cried About A Wall"

Scripture: [Nehemiah 1:1-11](#)

Theme: *The person God uses has a burden for His people, a vision for His purpose, and a commitment to His purpose.*

There is a friend or brother of Nehemiah's that comes in and informs Nehemiah that there is some bad news. Nehemiah learns that the wall that went around the city of Jerusalem and protected the people is now in ruins. Nehemiah then spends days before the Lord weeping, mourning, fasting and praying. This is a reaction that seems rather foreign to us. If we could be honest, we often don't have in regards to the greater Lincoln Way area.

Take a look at his prayer in verses 5-11, Nehemiah starts off with praising and adoring God for His sovereignty and His goodness but quickly moves into a bold request from the LORD. He says, "...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..." It seems that Nehemiah has a deep relationship with God and that he has the relationship with him to ask such things. Throughout his prayer, he even says to the LORD to remember things, not as if God has forgotten them. Rather he does this to continue his praise and adoration to the LORD.

He ends his prayer by asking the LORD to grant success, today. When was the last time that we had a prayer like that? For God to give us success, **today**, in all that we do. Do we even feel like we need God for success? In a culture where we have all the comforts anyone could ever want, do we feel the weight of our sin and the need of a Savior to come into our life and bring restoration and success into our lives. This success is not a health and wealth success, rather it is one that ultimately will bring glory and praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. With all of the overwhelming needs in the world, how can a person know where God wants him/her to focus?
2. How/why does Nehemiah have such a heart for this town when he is living somewhere else?
3. How can we fight and shrug off the subtle but aggressive worldliness that keeps seeping into our lives and the church?

NEHEMIAH

The Restoration of God's People

4. How did Nehemiah describe God in his prayer? (Other verses to consider 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and 1 Kings 8:22-53)
5. What was the content of Nehemiah's prayer? What promises of God did he mention? How did he describe the people of God?
6. Why is it important to realize that God's purpose is primarily His glory, not our happiness? Why are these two things not ultimately in conflict?
7. Is it really a sacrifice to lose the world in order to gain Christ? If not, why do we cling so tightly to the things of this world?
8. What are things in your family, workplace, town, city...etc. that cause your heart to break, weep, or cry?
9. Where can we see the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ in this passage?

SUMMING IT UP

"A man full of faith toward God, and yielded to the Spirit's control, will be gracious toward others and manifest great spiritual power."

"Prayer is the spontaneous response of the believing heart to God. Those truly transformed by Jesus Christ find themselves lost in the wonder and joy of communion with Him. Prayer is as natural for the Christian as breathing."

—John MacArthur

1. What traits in Nehemiah's life (seen in chapter 1) do you need to emulate?
2. What specific steps could you take this week to strengthen or improve your prayer life?
3. Write down the names of two people for whom you can intercede this week.