

REBUILD

Nehemiah 1-2 | Brokenness

Nehemiah 1:4-11

⁴As 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. ⁵And 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, ⁶let 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. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but 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.’ ¹⁰They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹O 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.” Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 2:11-16

¹¹So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹²Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

¹⁴Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King’s Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. ¹⁵Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. ¹⁶And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

Background

As we begin our new series through the book of Nehemiah, Pastor David will show us how Nehemiah’s brokenness over the things of God helped prepare him to accomplish the work of God. Brokenness is both a description of something that is not right AND the overwhelming passion to do something about it. In other words, brokenness is God’s way of helping us see and act to rebuild what has been torn down around us. This morning, may we learn from the example of Nehemiah how God works within us so that we can bring hope to hopeless places and people.

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What are you thankful for this week? Are there any specific ways we can pray for you? What was the most challenging or encouraging part of the message from Nehemiah 1-2?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 1:4-11.** What stands out to you the most when you read Nehemiah’s prayer? How does Nehemiah describe God, himself, and his people? What can his prayer teach us about ‘brokenness’ in our own lives (seeing something wrong and have a passion to do something about it)?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 2:1-8.** How do you think prayer and fasting prepared Nehemiah to respond to the king’s question and for rebuilding the wall? In what ways does prayer and fasting help us know God more deeply and hear Him more clearly? When was a time you prayed and fasted to hear more clearly from God? What changed in you?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 2:9-20** Why do you think it was important for Nehemiah to see the broken walls for himself? What can we learn from Nehemiah gathering a small group of men but not yet telling them “what God had put in my heart to do?” Like Nehemiah, how can being in a Life Group help each of us “strengthen our hands” for the work God has called us to do (vs. 18)?

Live it Out

- ▼ What is one area of your life where you see brokenness right now? Where do you see brokenness in the world around you? What is one step God is asking you to take this week to both see and act upon the brokenness in your life?

