



USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE IN YOUR PERSONAL STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

Message Recap: In a world that often encourages comfort, self-focus, and control, intentional living challenges us to move beyond passive reactions to life's events. Many people feel empty or frustrated when they live reactively. By encouraging intentional, proactive choices, we can foster resilience, deepen our relationships, and connect more meaningfully with God's purpose. Embracing this lifestyle transforms our personal lives and impacts those around us, aligning us with God's plan and purpose.

» Main Points

- Direction - Not Intention - Determines Destination
- Life is hard → Embrace the shift from ease to difficulty
- You're not important → Embrace the shift from self-centeredness to service
- Your life is not about you → Embrace the shift from individualism to interconnectedness
- You're not in control → Embrace the shift from control to surrender
- You're going to die → Embrace the shift from temporary to eternal

» Observation

- Read and reflect on [Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:4-5; 17-20; 4:15-20; 6:3; Psalm 133:1-3; James 4:13-14; Matthew 27:42](#)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by these verses? Why?

» Discussion Questions

- Are you living reactively or proactively right now? What steps could you take to move from reactive living to proactive?
- Think about a difficult situation you are facing now that you are tempted to shy away from because it feels overwhelming and difficult. What could happen if you leaned into the difficulty and faced the opposition head-on?
- Where are you serving? In what ways have you shifted the focus from yourself to others?
- Where are you building alongside others? Where do you need to shift from "me" to "we?"
- Are you more likely to pray without taking action or only pray as a last resort, as if it all depends on you? Instead, challenge yourself to pray like it depends on God and work like it depends on you. Surrender and take action.
- What healthy habits do you need to build or rebuild that will allow you to shift from a temporary to an eternal mindset?

» Next Steps and Prayer

- This week, pause and reflect on this statement: In your place of broken dreams, of pain, the "perfect" place, where hope and purpose begin again, let God restore what has been torn down. Allow him to rebuild the broken parts of your life. Look for how he is restoring hope, awakening dreams, rebuilding faith, reviving relationships, and bringing worship to life.
- Close by praying: Lord - Give me the strength and resolve to lean into the difficult times I face, and remember that I can do hard things with you.

"Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!"

- Nehemiah 2:17 -