



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



NOW WHAT?

*"IT'S THE START THAT
STOPS US" - Part 1*

April 7, 2024 ◆ Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



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All of us come to important _____ in our lives where we aren't sure what we should do...these are *Now What?* moments, and depending on what we do or don't do, these times will have significant impact in our lives and futures.

First of all, God will guide us:

1. By Giving Us a Divine _____ (note [Nehemiah 1:1-3](#))

Note [2 Chronicles 36:14-21](#)

For more than _____ years, no walls were rebuilt in Jerusalem.

No walls = defeated people, unsafe, and a source of _____
(note [Nehemiah 2:17](#)).

Note [Nehemiah 1:4](#)

Many times God gives us a burden about something to also give us direction/guidance.

2. By _____ Prayer

Nehemiah prays a heartfelt, honest and _____ prayer. It begins as all prayers should start = by _____ God for who He is ([Nehemiah 1:5-6a](#); The Lord's Prayer = *Hallowed by Your Name*).

His prayer then moves to _____ confession of sin, both corporate...and personally (note [Nehemiah 1:6b-7](#)).

...prayer that focuses on God's Word/truth/_____ (note [Nehemiah 1:8-10](#)).

Only after praise/worship, confession of sin, and affirmation of God's truth/promises does Nehemiah make his _____ request (note [Nehemiah 1:11](#)).

Prayer is a huge part of _____ direction for our lives (note [Colossians 1:9](#); [James 1:5](#)).

3. By Taking Us in a _____ Direction

Note [Nehemiah 1:11b](#)

Being a cup-bearer is not remotely _____ to being in construction/general contractor.

God gives us a burden because He is _____ us to do something about it.

So now what?

- To be guided by God means that the _____ burden you respond to is saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.
- What burden do you sense God is putting on your heart?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you were completely deaf but were somehow given the opportunity to hear for one hour, what three things would you want to hear in that time?

1. Read [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#). In reflecting on this passage, Pastor Tom said, “Many times God gives us a burden about something to also give us direction/guidance.” Has God ever placed a “burden” on your heart to guide you, and where did it lead?
2. Throughout his prayer Nehemiah focuses on God’s character and promises ([Nehemiah 1:5, 8-10](#)). Even though God doesn’t need any reminding, how would making this your practice embolden your prayers?
3. In [Nehemiah 1:6-7](#), Nehemiah confesses not only his own sins to God, but also the sins of the people of Israel that were committed long before he was born. Have you ever brought the sins of your family or church community to God in confession? Why do you think this is or isn’t important to do?
4. Pastor Tom told us that “prayer is a huge part of receiving direction for our lives.” Read [James 1:5-6](#). How does God use prayer to help turn a burden into direction? How have you seen this to be true in your life?
5. Note [Nehemiah 1:11b](#). Pastor Tom said, “Being a cup-bearer is not remotely equivalent to being in construction/general contractor.” Have you ever sensed God directing you to go outside of your comfort zone or expertise to serve Him? Why do you think He does that and, in the end, how did it go?

Day One: [John 3](#); [Psalm 71](#)

Day Four: [2 Thessalonians 1](#); [Jeremiah 5](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 21](#); [Proverbs 9](#)

Day Five: [Job 9](#); [Acts 15](#)

Day Three: [Hebrews 6](#); [1 Samuel 22](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

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All of us come to important moments in our lives where we aren't sure what we should do...these are *Now What?* moments, and depending on what we do or don't do, these times will have significant impact in our lives and futures.

First of all, God will guide us:

1. By Giving Us a Divine Burden (note Nehemiah 1:1-3)

Note 2 Chronicles 36:14-21

For more than 140 years, no walls were rebuilt in Jerusalem.

No walls = defeated people, unsafe, and a source of humiliation (note Nehemiah 2:17).

Note Nehemiah 1:4

Many times God gives us a burden about something to also give us direction/guidance.

2. By Sincere Prayer

Nehemiah prays a heartfelt, honest and personal prayer.

It begins as all prayers should start = by praising God for who He is (Nehemiah 1:5-6a; The Lord's Prayer = *Hallowed by Your Name*).

His prayer then moves to transparent confession of sin, both corporate... and personally (note Nehemiah 1:6b-7).

...prayer that focuses on God's Word/truth/promises (note Nehemiah 1:8-10).

Only after praise/worship, confession of sin, and affirmation of God's truth/promises does Nehemiah make his specific request (note [Nehemiah 1:11](#)).

Prayer is a huge part of receiving direction for our lives (note [Colossians 1:9](#); [James 1:5](#)).

3. By Taking Us in a New Direction

Note [Nehemiah 1:11b](#)

Being a cup-bearer is not remotely equivalent to being in construction/general contractor.

God gives us a burden because He is entrusting us to do something about it.

So now what?

- To be guided by God means that the first burden you respond to is saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.
- What burden do you sense God is putting on your heart?

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