

Home Group Notes
Week of April 21, 2024
Nehemiah 2



DID YOU HEAR THAT?

Pastor Doug Baker spoke about home remodeling and the tool belt often worn to carry one's tools. He also reminded us that God has a tool belt for each of us - a belt made up of internal attitudes and external behaviors all designed to strengthen God's people and build God's Kingdom projects. How did this imagery of the Christian life impact your thinking about your life?

LEARNING FROM AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Nehemiah was living the good life! His residence was in the royal citadel. His work connected him intimately with the most powerful man on earth in his day. His daily life was one of luxury. His future retirement was set. He literally had it all. AND YET...He chose to exchange this lap of luxury for a journey to a devastated city 800 miles away surrounded by determined enemies. He chucked it all to join a motley crew and rebuild a massive wall out of rubble and ruin.

Read Nehemiah chapter 2 and give some thought to the following questions:

What prompted Nehemiah to make this huge shift from plenty to lack...from peace to conflict?

What were Nehemiah's heart-felt questions? Why does God often invite his people into building projects with him using uncertainties rather than certainties? (e.g. Noah, Abraham, Nehemiah)

Nehemiah models two forms of prayer for us 1) persistent, deep, extended prayers for major needs in life, and 2) in-the-moment microwave prayers for sudden shifts in life. How do these appear in your life? Why are both important?

Nehemiah's familiarity with God's word led him to view God in a way different from everyone else...as the God of heaven! (2:11) How does your view of God impact your view of other people around you?

Despite all the focus on Nehemiah's feelings, prayers, requests, and plans in chapter 1, we learn in chapter 2 that it was God who had put the desire to rebuild Jerusalem's walls on Nehemiah's heart. In what way does God put desires to serve into believers hearts today? What is the Holy Spirit's role in this prompting? What does this tell us about the attitudes we should have when we serve?

Building things for God ALWAYS attracts opposition from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Based on Nehemiah's example what can we do to encourage each other to keep on building? How do you see the "Good hand of God" working in your life and ministries? How could you encourage others with these insights to keep on serving with joy?

PLEASE PRAY

- Steve Springsted's father, Charles, passed away and Steve and Diane are in Fresno for the services. Please pray for them as they grieve and minister to family members.
- Praise God for the work Micah House is doing in our community.
- Pray for God to send workers into the harvest at Trinity to serve in our ministries that need more people.