

Disciple's Quest

*IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN YOU ARE
TRULY DISCIPLES OF MINE.*

JOHN 8:31

RESTORATION
STUDIES IN EZRA AND NEHEMIAH
HARDWARE

May 3, 2020

Restoration Hardware, Part 7

What To Do When Things Have Gone Wrong

Nehemiah 1

Main Idea:

The surest way for believers to depart from God's will and blessing is to disregard His word. However, because God is gracious and faithful, He is eager to forgive and restore those who humbly repent and return to Him.

Outline:

1. The Dire Situation

2. Nehemiah's Desperate Intercession

3 Stages:

1) Nehemiah processed (contemplated) what had gone wrong that resulted in the trouble

2) Nehemiah prayed, and began by repenting

3) Nehemiah pleaded for Yahweh to intervene and restore His people to blessing again

Questions for further application and contemplation after the message:

#1 What do you think was the real (spiritual) cause of the "great distress and reproach" the remnant were experiencing? (Hint v. 7)

#2 Nehemiah's own seeming idyllic circumstances as the book opens (cupbearer to the King) took a tragic turn in an instant with the report from Hanani that Jerusalem's inhabitants were in dire straits.

Have you ever had your world turned upside down in an instant?

How did you react? (Contrast and compare with Nehemiah's response.)

#3 What does Nehemiah's prayer tell us about his understanding of who God is?

How did Nehemiah utilize his extensive knowledge of God's word (including his understanding of God's promises) in his prayer?

#4 Nehemiah began his prayer by praising God; then by interceding for others, and finally by praying for his own need. Is this significant?

Why?