



January 15, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 2:1-20 | "It's Crunch Time!"

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 1

What concerns turned into passions for you (1:3–4)?
In what ways did you reorient your prayers (1:5–11)?
How did you intentionally serve others (1:11)?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 2:1–20
Psalm 127:1
Psalm 46:1; 72:12
Psalm 56:3–4
Proverbs 16:14
Romans 5:3–5
James 1:2–4

Study Questions

1. When was the last time you had to wait for God to answer a prayer? How did you successfully wait upon the Lord? Read Isaiah 40:28–31 and Hebrews 6:12. What has God put into your heart to do? How are you willing to take risks to be used for God's purposes? Are you seizing every opportunity to influence others in a positive way? How does God want to use you right where you are?
2. When have you experienced fear like Nehemiah? How did you respond? What did you learn from this experience? What are you afraid of right now? Does this fear have you preoccupied or paralyzed? What can you do now to prepare to act, speak, or go when the Lord opens a door?
3. What does God's providence mean to you? In what ways do you consider your present job and various trials as opportunities for divine appointments? Do you sense that you are in the center of God's will? How are you growing in your trust of Him? How are you using your spiritual gift(s) to advance His kingdom purposes?
4. How should you respond to criticism from others? What guidelines can help you discern when to be diplomatic and when to confront boldly? (Check out Jesus' various interactions with people in this regard.) How can you guard yourself from disappointment and cynicism when things don't go well in your service for God? How can you keep an optimistic and joyful attitude?
5. Where is God calling you to honestly and humbly inspect the walls of your life (e.g., relationship with the Lord, friends, marriage, parenting, work)? Where might repentance and growth be needed? How can you ensure that nothing is holding you back from spiritual intimacy and impact? Who can help you recognize areas that need to change in your life? Will you invite this person to speak freely into your life?

Recommended Reading

Jason K. Allen, *Turnaround: The Remarkable Story of an Institutional Transformation and the 10 Essential Principles and Practices that Made It Happen* (B&H, 2022)
J. I. Packer & Carolyn Nystrom, *God's Will: Finding Guidance for Everyday Decisions* (Baker, 2008)
Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will* (Moody, 2009)