



Title: Unlikely - A Heart For A City

Scripture: Neh. 1:4-6

Date: 08052018

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: God uses the least likely people to accomplish the most unlikely things.

Vs. 4

We see Nehemiah moved to action.

Sat down - dwelled, stayed put; he remained still in the moment.

Wept - Shed tears. He was moved emotionally and physically.

Mourned - His spirit was down. He was lamenting. He was down in spirit.

When difficult times come we need to draw close to God so that He can move us to action.

Even though he was down in spirit he moved to action.

Fasting- Abstained from food.

Praying- He intercedes on behalf of the city and people he had a heart for. He spent time with the Lord.

Before the God of heaven- In the presence of God. His time was not in isolation, it was 'before' the God of heaven.

Humility towards God demonstrates our dependence upon God.

Vs. 5

I pray- Nehemiah recognized that this situation needed a conversation with God.

Lord God of heaven- He recognized that God is the one only God over heaven. He also recognized that there is a God and he wasn't him.

O great and awesome God

Great = Importance, distinguished.

Awesome = To be held in awe.

You who keep your covenant and mercy- God will keep his promise to us. The promise of Jesus. A way to come into His presence.

With those who you love - God loves you. This may be news to you. But He does.

Sometimes the best times in our lives occur when we discover our need and complete dependence upon God.

Vs. 6

Complete dependence upon God removes what we can do from the equation.

Please let Your ear be attentive - Nehemiah knew the situation that he faced required God to be part of the solution.

That You may hear the prayer of Your servant - Nehemiah had a simple goal. He prayed and believe that God was his only hope. If God would only listen, the situation might be changed. He prayed with humility recognizing that he was a servant.

Both my father's house and I have sinned- Finally Nehemiah recognized that humility before God requires us to confess our sin.

Humility before God requires us to confess our sin.

The question is not will God use you do something incredible. The question is are you in a position to be used by God.

Nehemiah was a humble leader after the things of God.

Three things we need to consider as we think about our next steps:

1. We must have a burden for something that we (apart from God) cannot take care of on our own.
2. We must allow God to move us to action.
3. We must have vision big enough that prayer is required.

If your vision/plan is doable it's not from God.

Aug 5th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



Unlikely - A Heart For A City

Neh. 1:4-6

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: God uses the least likely people to accomplish the most unlikely things.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. Does it surprise you to know that Nehemiah stepped away from his life to accomplish what God had before him?
2. What would be some reservations that we may have today if we had to wrestle with stepping away from everything we know into the unknown?
3. In your opinion, do you think this built Nehemiah's faith?
4. What could God call you to do that in your mind would be difficult to follow through with?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.



Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: August 5th, 2018

Bible Story: "God Gives His Laws" (Exodus 19:1-20)

1. Why does God give us a set of rules and guidelines to live by?
2. God gave Moses the 10 Commandments to share with his people. Can you name some of them?
3. God gives us rules to live by just like our parents give us rules to live by. These rules are to help us and to protect us. What is a rule you have at home and why do you think you should abide by that rule? Was the rule created to help you or hurt you?
4. One of the Ten Commandments tells us to "honor you father and mother." What are some ways we can follow God's commandment to honor our parents?

Memory Verse: "Be good to me , your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:17-18)

