



Pastor Derrick Shields “The Power of Confession, Fasting, and Prayer” 1/9/2022

Key Verses:

- Nehemiah 1-3

Key Thoughts:

- We’re looking at Nehemiah for the next five weeks focusing on the things that God wants to renew in our lives. Nehemiah can teach us some things about how God does a new thing.
- Three words of focus are: redemption, reconciliation, and restoration. Making broken things whole again, bringing together things that have been disconnected, and putting back together things that have fallen apart.
- Our goal in Nehemiah is to immerse ourselves in the story so that we’ll be transformed.
- In Nehemiah 1:1-11, we find Nehemiah having learned about what’s going on in Jerusalem from his brother. The wall protecting Jerusalem has been destroyed. **We may not have many physical walls today, but for us, they represent the boundaries around our heart that keep the enemy from destroying what God has already done.**
- When Nehemiah heard what was happening, it broke his heart and he wept. **Nehemiah also acknowledged his own role and when we cry out to God for things that are broken, we must acknowledge the role that we’ve played too. This is confession.** Then he cries out to God acknowledging his sovereignty and goodness.
- In Chapter 2, the king allows Nehemiah to go and rebuild the wall in Jerusalem. Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem and v.13-15 describes how he worked his way around the wall and taking note of the gaps in the wall. If things are broken in our lives, after we fast and pray, we should sit down and inspect what’s going on. In v.16-18, Nehemiah doesn’t leave it just telling them that God is good, but also that it’s time to rebuild. It was time to take action.
- 2022 is the year for us to allow God to rebuild what the enemy has destroyed in our lives. It’s time to take action. Not action that is powered by us but is informed by his love for us. **Action that is powered through fervent fasting and prayer.**
- Chapter 3 lists 38 individuals and 42 groups. The word “next” appears 27 times. **The point is that the work that they did, they did it together.** 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that many parts form one body and each of us has a part to play in the body of Christ.
- God wants to do a new thing, to bring redemption, to reconcile us to each other and to himself, to restore what has been lost. But in order to do it, it’s going to take each one of us. We each have something to offer.

Discussion Questions:

- What wall has crumbled in your personal life, family life, or career?
- Do you have a consistent rhythm in your life of confession, fasting and prayer? What benefit do you see that these practices could bring?