

# RE:OLUTION

## RE:OLUTION, PART 1: THE BETTER QUESTION

This is that time of year when we become painfully aware of where we are not, who we are not, and what we need to do differently. Traditionally, the new year is a season of self-absorption. It's all about what we can do to make ourselves better people. The result is that churches, health clubs, debt counselors, and vitamin shops do a booming business.

But we tend to forget that the people we respect the most didn't devote their lives to becoming the best versions of themselves. They devoted their lives to making a difference in the world—or in someone's world.

**BIG IDEA:** *If it breaks your heart? Be a part of fixing it.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you make a New Year's resolution? If so, what motivated you to make it?
2. Talk about one of your heroes—either someone from history or someone you knew personally. What qualities did that person have that made you look up to him or her?
3. During the message, Chris said, "Jesus taught that devotion to God is measured in terms of our devotion to others." Respond to that statement. In what ways does it challenge your assumptions about faith?
4. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Nehemiah 1:1–11.*

*The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king. Nehemiah 1:1–11*

5. Do you believe that God stirs human hearts to pursue divine purposes? If so, do you believe God might stir your heart? Why or why not?
6. What are some things that prevent you from moving from just feeling compassion for others to acting compassionately on others' behalf?
7. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to identify what breaks your heart? What can this group do to help and support you?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What breaks your heart? What needs to be done around you? If you really want to become a better person, do something to make the world a better place. Be a means to an end.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Nehemiah 1:11*