

NEHEMIAH: RISE & BUILD
PART 1: FIRST RESPONDER

Pastor Josh Pardee – August 23, 2020



SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 1: 3-11

3 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.”

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

5 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, 6 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. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

8 “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 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.’

10 “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 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.

Our emotions are not obstacles to overcome, they are pathways to God.

The only way God can’t bring about good news in your brokenness, is when you minimize it.

You are the best positioned right now to do the work God has for you today.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the passage of Scripture together as a group.

As you were growing up, what were you taught about emotions from your parents? Did they teach out to bury your feelings, or wear them on your sleeve? Did they teach they were inherently good or bad?

How has that narrative shaped how to handle them today?

Do you think the emotions that you feel can lead you to God? Why or why not?

What role does our obedience play in our relationship with God and how we work it out? (Nehemiah 1: 5-9)

How can you apply what you have learned this week?