

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

A Passion for Faithfulness

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
June 21, 2020



What does it take to leave a legacy that will impact the next generation?

"In sum, no matter the domain, the highly successful had a kind of ferocious determination that played out in two ways. First, these exemplars were unusually resilient and hardworking. Second, they knew in a very, very deep way what it was they wanted. They not only had determination, they had direction. It was this combination of passion and perseverance that made high achievers special. In a word, they had GRIT." Angela Duckworth, GRIT: The Power of Passion and Perseverance.

Nehemiah had PASSION:

- **A passion to please God.**

Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT) O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honouring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me."

Nehemiah 5:9 (NLT) Then I pressed further, "What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?"

- **A passion for people.**

Nehemiah had PERSEVERANCE:

- **He persevered through fear.**

Nehemiah 2:2-3 (NLT) So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified,³ but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

- **He persevered through hardship.**

Nehemiah 4:10-13 (NLT) Then the people of Judah began to complain, "The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves." ¹¹ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, "Before they know what's happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work." ¹² The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, "They will come from all directions and attack us!" ¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

"The pain you feel today is the strength you will feel tomorrow - for every challenge encountered there is the opportunity for growth."

- **He persevered through failure.** Nehemiah 13:6-12

Big Idea: GRIT leads to Greatness.

- **There is no better example of GRIT than Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.**

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

GRIT leads to Greatness. Develop GRIT (passion and perseverance) to make an impact. How do you do this?

1) Find your place in God's story.

Nehemiah 13:22b (NLT) "Remember [my] good deed[s] also, O my God! Have compassion on me according to your great and unfailing love."

- **Sign your "life" away to Jesus Christ today!**

2) Develop resiliency by doing hard things in God's strength.

- **Implement a Hard Thing Rule**

Nehemiah 2:20 (NLT) "...The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding..."



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**A Passion for Faithfulness
#6 of 6 - June 21, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? Describe someone in your life who you think displays GRIT. In what ways do they exemplify passion and perseverance?

3) Read Nehemiah 1:4-11. How does Nehemiah display a passion for God?

4) How does Nehemiah display a passion for different types of people throughout the account? Countrymen? Leaders? Workers? Vulnerable people? Find scriptures to support your answers. What can we learn from this?

5) Read Nehemiah 2:2-3. In what ways does Nehemiah persevere through fear? What would be some other examples of this in the book? What fear is holding you back from following God more fully? How does the Gospel address these fears?

6) Read Nehemiah 4:10-13. Describe the types of hardship Nehemiah is experiencing. In what ways can you identify with these hardships. Read Romans 8:28. What does this promise say and how can you apply this to your current struggles?

7) What failure do you fear the most? In what ways have you allowed failure to define you or paralyze you? Read Hebrews 12:1-4. How does Jesus and the cross speak over your fear, hardship, and failure?

8) ACTION steps:

- Take time to pray and “sign” your life over to Jesus Christ. What next step is God asking you to take?
- What “Hard Thing Rule” will you implement to grow in GRIT? Share this with your Impact Community.



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