

## SEQUOIA NOTES

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

#### Burdened by Brokenness

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
May 17, 2020



Nehemiah 1:1-4a (NLT) These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. <sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." <sup>4</sup> When I heard this, I sat down and wept....

#### What is our response as a church to the brokenness around us?

- **We respond with compassion.**
- **We maintain our connection.**

Nehemiah 1:4b-11 In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I said, "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unending love with those who love him and obey his commands, <sup>6</sup> listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! <sup>7</sup> We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup> "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. <sup>9</sup> But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honoured.' <sup>10</sup> "The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. <sup>11</sup> 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." In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.

- **We step out in courage:**

Nehemiah 2:2 "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..."

Nehemiah 2:3-5 "...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.' <sup>4</sup> The king asked, 'Well, how can I help you?' With a prayer to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> I replied, 'If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.'"

Nehemiah 2:8c "And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me."

#### To do this we don't focus on Nehemiah we focus on the True and Better Nehemiah.

Isaiah 53:5-6,10 (NLT) "But he [Jesus] was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all... <sup>10</sup> But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants."

**Big Idea: Allow the grace of God to fuel your compassionate action.**

- **Remember the grace you have received in Christ.**
- **Commit to a deeper connection with God.**
- **Step out in faith and take a risk for God.**



**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**

**Burdened by Brokenness  
#1 of 6 - May 17, 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?

3) In what ways do you see brokenness in our world? In your neighbourhood? What does this do in your heart?

4) Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. How does Nehemiah respond to the brokenness that he encounters? How personally connected was Nehemiah to the situation in Jerusalem? What are the implications for us as we consider the challenges in the world and in our community?

5) What are some steps we can take as individuals, IC's, and as a church to grow in our compassion for hurting people? What burden has God put on your heart?

6) Read Nehemiah 1:4-11. What does Nehemiah do with the burden placed on his heart? What can we learn from this? What aspects does Nehemiah include in his prayer to God? What specific steps can you take to develop your prayer life and connection with God?

7) Read Nehemiah 2:1-8. Describe Nehemiah's encounter with the King. How does he show courage and faith in this regard? Where do you need courage today?

8) Read Isaiah 53:5-6,10. How does the courage of Jesus inspire and equip you to step out in faith to take risks for God? Take time to work through the Action Steps:

- Remember the grace you have received in Christ.
- Commit to a deeper prayer life.
- Step out in faith and take a risk for God.



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