

When You See the Need

Nehemiah 1:2-4:

- **Welcome:**
 - **My History**
 - **Take Bible's - Nehemiah 1:2-4:**
 - **QUESTION: Have you ever seen something that, once you saw it you could not unsee it?**
 - You never really noticed it until you became aware of it.
 - Once you started looking for it, you started seeing it everywhere.
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- **ILLUSTRATION:**
 - **Spill the Tea**
 - Gossip
 - As soon as she told me, I started hearing it everywhere.
 - **VAN**
 - We had totaled our old one on the way to church.
 - We were told we should look at a Honda Odyssey.
 - I started seeing them everywhere!!!!
 - I had never really noticed them before.
 - **This happened in our family's life.**
 - Everywhere we look, we see places in this world that are not being reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - We saw villages with no church to reach them.
 - That is why we felt God leading us to join CORE Missions.
 - CORE Missions is all about helping get the gospel to and planting churches in these remote and unreached areas of the world.
 - **The reason why God led us to this ministry is because we saw the need!**
 - And once God showed us the need, it's all we can see!
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- **Nehemiah 1:2-4:**

- **Who was Nehemiah?**
 - **Nehemiah was a Jew serving as a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia.**
 - A cupbearer was a position of great importance!
 - A cupbearer was not only responsible for serving wine but also for ensuring that it was not poisoned.
 - This tells you what a high level of trust he had in the king.
 - The life of the king was in the hands of the cupbearer.
 - **He had a high position.**
 - A high position of leadership.
 - High position of trust.
 - A high position of influence.
 - **Despite his high-ranking position, Nehemiah never forgot who he really was.**
 - Even though he was successful worldly...
 - He was a Jew, first and foremost.
 - He was, first and foremost, one of God's chosen people.
- **APPLICATION: Don't forget who you are!**
 - **Your occupation is not your identity.**
 - **Your worldly success does not define who you are.**
 - **If you have accepted the Gospel...**
 - You are, first and foremost, a follower of Jesus Christ.
 - Your identity is in Christ.
 - Always remember, "I am a child of God".
- **WHO we are is more important than WHAT we do.**

Neh 1:2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

- These are the Jews who survived the Babylonian captivity and returned to Jerusalem.
- Nehemiah wanted to know how things were going.

Neh 1:3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

Neh 1:4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.

- In this passage, we see Nehemiah's reaction to hearing about the suffering and trouble in Jerusalem.
 - 1 - He gets a burden for the people:

- **Neh 1:4 “And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days,”**
- He saw the need!
- Once he saw it, he could not unsee it.
- God moved him emotionally because of the need.
- “God touched his heart.”
- This is the stirring.
- **2 - Prayer:**
 - **“and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,”**
 - God, what do you want me to do?
 - God, this is impossible.
 - V 4-11 is His Prayer.
- **3 - Ultimately, it led him to action:**
 - **Neh 2:4 - Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.**
 - **Neh 2:5 - And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.**
 - He prepared for God to use him.
 - God, I am willing for you to use me.
- **4- He prepared himself to be used.**
 - 4 month gap.
 - What He asked for:
 - 1 - Asked Permission to Return to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:5)
 - 2 - Asked to be gone A Specific Timeframe for His Mission (Nehemiah 2:6)
 - Nehemiah was likely away from King Artaxerxes for at least 12 years
 - 3 - Official Letters of Authorization (Nehemiah 2:7)
 - Safety.
 - 4 - He asked for the building materials. (Nehemiah 2:8)
 - 5 - The King gave him everything and more.
 - Nehemiah received a military escort with officers and horsemen.
- **When we see a need that is tied to our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, we must do something about it!**
- We cannot sit by and just hope that someone else gets involved.

- The reason that God is touching your heart is because he wants you to do something about the need!

APPLICATION

- **Much like Nehemiah, we saw a need, and we could not ignore it!**
 - **ILLUSTRATION: Story about Africa:**
- **There is a need for the World to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ:**
 - To plant churches around the world.
 - To free people from bondage to false gods.
- **What are you going to do about it?**
 - God is touching your heart because he wants you to do something!
 - Don't just sit there and hope someone else will do it.
 - Don't ignore what God is trying to do in your life.
- **Maybe God is asking you to:**
- **1 - (GO) Maybe God is not asking you to do what he asked us to do... Or maybe he is?**
 - You see the need.
 - Are you willing to go if God asks you to do it?
 - Faith is scary!
- **2 - (GO) - Locally**
 - **Tell that person about Jesus Christ.**
 - Invite that coworker to church.
 - Start serving in that ministry.
 - Start disciplining that new convert.
- **3 - (PRAY) Maybe God wants you to be a better prayer warrior for God.**
 - **TRUTH** - You can pray.
 - Do you pray for those who need the Gospel?
 - Pray that churches will be planted.
 - You can get involved in missions by developing the discipline of praying for those who have never heard Jesus' name.
 - Praying for your missionaries.
- **4 - (GIVE) Maybe God is asking you to give.**
 - **Financially:**

- ***Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:***
- ***Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:***
- Investing in the Gospel is always worth it!
- Investing in planting churches is always worth it!
- Give your time:
 - CORE Volunteers.
- Give of your skills and talents:

CONCLUSION

- Imagine what God could do if we all had the heart of Nehemiah.
- Just like Nehemiah, God has shown you the need.
 - What are you going to do?
 - Are you going to ignore it?
 - Or are you going to be part of the most extraordinary mission known to man?
 - Spreading the gospel to the unreached arias of the world.