

Sunday, June 4, 2017 - "By My Spirit" (Vision Sunday) - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Zechariah 4:6-10, Daniel 9:1-2, 24-25

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We've seen through the book of Nehemiah that God is moving
- Sometimes it's easier to look back and see what God was doing then understand when it's happening
- Nehemiah and Daniel are portions of the story of God's people
 - Nehemiah was moved by the truth that the city of Jerusalem being in chaos/ruins
 - Daniel most likely witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and was carried off to Babylon
 - Daniel's prophecy is about how long before the people of God can return to their home
- Daniel 9 contains prophecy
 - Prophecy about Nehemiah (and Ezra and Zerubbabel) returning to Jerusalem
 - BUT he also prophecies about Jesus, the messiah, 490 years after the rebuilding of the temple
 - So to Nehemiah rebuilding the city was about his home being restored BUT also about starting the "clock" for Jesus coming
- Zerubbabel was tasked with rebuilding the temple of God
 - There was great pressure against it
 - Great opposition to
 - **If you are doing what God wants you to do, there will be opposition**
 - This is kind of what Nehemiah heard "Things aren't going very well"
- Zechariah 4:6-10
 - You can't just TRY HARDER
 - Not by Might = physical strength
 - Not by Power = connections or influence
 - How often do we step back and invite the Spirit of God into the things we are dealing with?
- "Do not despise the small beginnings" v10
 - Don't abandoned what God has already started
 - It's easy to say "why can't I be like...?"
 - God sometimes wants us to continue in the thing or path he has already begun
- The Foundation that God is building at Grace
 - Culture or Prayer & Word and Spirit
 - Creative Culture, 6 Essentials, A Church without curtains, Mosaic, Small groups (D-groups), Justice (MFB, Covenant Care, SOAR Detroit - tutoring)
- We are called to continue in what God has revealed to us and to not despise small beginnings

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. When was a time you tried to accomplish something by your own might or power?
2. What does it look like for you to depend on God's spirit to do the things that he has asked you to do?
3. How can you learn to stop depending and trusting your own power and strength?
4. What are some of the small beginnings that God is calling you not to despise?
5. What kind of foundation is God building in your heart and your life that you need to continue in?
6. What is God stirring in your heart in response to what Doug shared about the foundation God is building here at Grace? (Culture of Prayer etc. SEE LIST ABOVE)
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Matthew 8 Tues: Matthew 9 Wed: Matthew 10 Thurs: Matthew 11 Fri: Matthew 12

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**