

Sunday, May 7, 2017 - "God's Hand Is Upon Me" - Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Nehemiah 2:8-20

- 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're going to see brokenness
 - Some obvious
 - Some not so obvious
 - We must **ENGAGE** our hearts in this
- Nehemiah saw the brokenness → Fasted/prayed for 4 months → then got his opportunity
- Nehemiah discovered that the "good hand of God was on him" (v8)
- The hand of the Lord brings **FAVOR**
 - God is the head/chief of all
 - Favor gives strength and power and might
- The hand of the Lord brings **PROVISION & PROTECTION**
 - Timber to rebuild walls (provision)
 - Army to go with Nehemiah (protection)
- There will be **OPPOSITION**
 - In your mission that the Lord has given you
 - The leaders of the other nations that tried to stop Nehemiah
 - But again, God is head over all
- The hand of the Lord brings **VISION**
 - God gives us a vision to address a problem/brokenness
 - God gave Nehemiah a vision for Jerusalem and his people
 - No vision → people being discouraged
 - Faith is tied to the revealed word of God (the vision)
- The enemy always tries to remind us of our past failures
 - Trying to rebuild Jerusalem had failed once
 - The enemy tells you that you can't fulfill the mission God has for you
- The hand of the Lord means **THE ENEMY'S TIME IS UP**
 - God will break through (prosper v20) what stands against
 - "we will arise and build" (v20)
 - We will be fruitful in what we endeavor to do
- Nehemiah was not confused about his mission or God's claim to the city
- God wants to support and encourage and strengthen us in the mission that He has put before us

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

1. What do you think about when you think of the Lord's favor?
2. Talk about a time when you felt that the hand of the Lord was on you?
3. When was a season or situation where you experienced the hand of the Lord bringing protection and/or provision?
4. What are some of the things that stand in opposition to you fulfilling the mission God has called to you?
5. What are some of the visions God has given? What problems situations has God called you into?
6. What do you think about when Norflette says "The enemy's time is up"? How does that affect your current situations and mission?
7. How is God calling you to respond to the opposition to your mission? (see Nehemiah's response in v20)
8. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: Acts 16 Tues: Acts 17 Wed: Acts 18 Thurs: Acts 19 Fri: Acts 20**

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