

Sunday, April 23, 2017 - "Nehemiah and the Gospel" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Nehemiah 1:1-11

- 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

- Historical Background
  - 586 BC = King of Babylon destroys Jerusalem
  - Takes best and brightest back to Babylon
  - King Cyrus takes over Babylon and is a progressive thinker → Allows people to go back where they are from
  - Keep in mind: throughout all of Nehemiah, he stays faithful to the king/his job
- See / Feel / Know / Ask / Do
  - This is how to capture the heart of sustainable change
  - This should be our response to the movement/invitation of God
  - This is the way we have impact
- See...
  - Something more than just noticing
  - We tend to stop seeing what makes us uncomfortable
  - Shift from being gatherers → Hunters
  - Nehemiah sought out info about his homeland: We need to hunt for something God puts on our heart
- Feel... (the weight/the pain)
  - Allow what we see to affect us (like in v4)
  - The problem of someone else MOVING us to mourning and sorrow
  - We have to be moved by what moves God
  - We tend to make excuses for the problems/situations of others
  - What if God would have made excuses for our problems and situations?
- Know...
  - Nehemiah knows the promised of scripture (v8)
  - We have to KNOW the heart of God
  - God: "I Love justice" God loves when we do justice
  - Shift from church community → *missional* community (go, serve, love people outside the church walls)
- Ask/Pray
  - When God gives an invitation....Pray
  - But...sometimes this is where it ends
- Do...
  - Nehemiah was willing to go and to do
  - Willingness to get our hands dirty
  - Not enough sometimes to just post/write/talk about it
- Nehemiah and hist story point to Jesus
- Jesus was willing to see, feel, know, ask, do in response to our problems/needs/situations

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

1. What is something that God is asking you to see instead of just notice?
2. Talk about a time when you felt the weight and the pain of someone other than yourself? What did God teach you as a result of that time?
3. How well do you know the heart of God? How is God calling you to learn/know his heart more?
4. How is God calling you/us to be more of a missional community than a church community?
5. How has God grown you in praying about the things that move your heart?
6. When was time you struggled to move from praying to doing? What do you learn?
7. Where is and area that God is calling you to DO that you are currently just praying/talking/posting about?
8. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: Acts 6 Tues: Acts 7 Wed: Acts 8 Thurs: Acts 9 Fri: Acts 10**

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