

Resolved to Depend on God

Proclamation Bible Study; Week of Sunday, February 9, 2020; Steve Thiel

When Nehemiah receives the report that God's people and God's city are in trouble, he mourns, prays, and engages the situation. This pattern of mourning, prayer, and action culminates in Jesus and is the pattern we must be resolved to emulate in our daily lives!

I. Nehemiah Receives the News – Read Nehemiah 1:1-3

- A. How would you summarize where we are in the history of Israel? What key dates, kings, and events can you remember? If you were to overview the book of Ezra, what events happen in each chapter?
- B. When Nehemiah learned of the sad state of the people of God and the place of God, he wept, mourned, and fasted. Do reports of the sad state of the church affect you in the same way? Why or why not?
- C. How do you think Nehemiah became a person who was so concerned about the people of God and the place of God? What can we do to increase our personal investment in the church and spiritual matters?

II. Nehemiah Responds in Prayer – Read Nehemiah 1:4-11

- A. What in particular stands out to you with regard to Nehemiah's prayer? If you were to separate his prayer into sections, what would they be? Do your prayers follow a similar pattern? Why or why not?
- B. How do you think Nehemiah became someone who instinctively responded to challenges and difficulties by crying out to the Lord? What can we do to develop a habit of dependence on God and prayer?
- C. After reading the entirety of Nehemiah's prayer and Deuteronomy 4:23-31, what connections do you make between the two passages? Do you think Nehemiah was reading these verses when he prayed?
- D. What things in your life should cause you to be fasting and praying? What things should you be prepping, plotting, and planning for should you be given the opportunity to address those situations?

III. Nehemiah Reacts with Boldness – Read Nehemiah 2:1-8

- A. If the Lord gave you an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God, what aspects of "staying in the Persian palace" would be most tempting? How can you put that enticement in the proper perspective?
- B. As you think about Nehemiah, how do you think he overcame his fear? What fear do you struggle with the most? How can a right understanding of the bible and the sovereignty of God help you with that fear?
- C. What stands out to you with regard to the boldness of Nehemiah's requests? How does fasting, prayer, and dependence on God enable a person to make such requests? How would you like to grow in this area?
- D. How is the good hand of our great God being upon us critical for any good thing to happen? How often do you pray for His blessing? What would be good examples of his blessing on your life?