



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of August 21, 2022

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text: Nehemiah 1:1-11

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." 4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5 And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. 8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, 9 but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' 10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Discussion Questions

1. When Nehemiah heard that the Jews in Judah and the city of Jerusalem itself were in great trouble and shame, he mourned and wept for days. Godly people care about the people of God and things of God. In your priorities, where do the people of God and the things of God rank? What do you think the impact would be on Hawaii Kai Church if every member shared Nehemiah's care and concern for the people of God and the things of God?

2. How is God's reputation and glory impacted by the spiritual condition of His people as well as the physical condition of His church? What practical things can you do to elevate God's reputation and glory amongst unbelievers living in a fallen world?
3. When Christians find themselves swimming in grief, having hit rock bottom, why is it important for their first response to be prayer? Additionally, how does a recognition of God's greatness and our own sin and shortcomings impact how we pray?
4. Why is it important to pray God's promises back to Him...in other words, how does this help in time of need? What are some promises of God that you can pray back to Him in your personal times of trial and suffering?
5. In this week's sermon we were reminded that the Lord Jesus Himself, went directly to prayer in His hour of greatest need while in the Garden of Gethsemane. What does this tell you about the importance of prayer?