

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 1:1-4

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 1/7

1. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. What do you know about the book of Nehemiah and what God does for His people in the book? It's a story of how God renewed, rebuilt, and restored His people 2,500 years ago. Why do you think people still find this story compelling and instructive for our walks with God today?
2. Have you ever experienced God doing a work of renewing, rebuilding, and restoring in your life? How did He do it? Have you ever witnessed Him doing this in someone else's life? What have you learned about how this work of God tends to happen?
3. Though his people's recent history had been very hard (being conquered, carried into captivity, etc.), Nehemiah's own life was pretty good. He had a comfortable job in the palace as cupbearer for the king. Yet when he heard about the suffering of his people back in Jerusalem, his heart was broken for over it. What tends to help you have compassion for the suffering of others? What tends to make you callus to or tuned out to the suffering you see?
4. Generally when people study Nehemiah today, they study it on on two levels. They study if for: 1) how God can rebuild our personal lives; and 2) how God can use us to rebuild broken things in society. How do you think personal renewal and renewal in terms of healing pain we see around us in the world relate to each other?
5. Most weeks we end our services with a benediction that says in part, "May you be healed as you participate in the healing of others." What do you think that means? How do you think it works?
6. It appears in chapters 1&2 that Nehemiah spent four months praying about this sense of burden he felt for the suffering people of Jerusalem before he actually approached the King to try and do something about it. How do you think prayer and holding a need up to God relates to personal renewal? How do you think it relates to renewal in places of brokenness and pain in the world around us?