

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 2:1-17, Romans 8:24-25, Hebrews 11:1

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 1/21

1. Read Nehemiah 2:1-17. Nehemiah comes into the king's presence here after 4 months of praying, fasting, and weeping because of his concern over the state of Jerusalem. During that time of waiting, nothing was changing externally; Jerusalem was still in ruins. But what things do you imagine were changing in Nehemiah as he waited and prayed?
2. Read Romans 8:24-25 and Hebrews 11:1. Have you ever had to wait on God for a long time for something? What was it like? How is waiting different when you have the kind of hope these two passages call us to than when you are filled with doubt and fear? On what basis can Christ followers wait with hope?
3. What risk was involved for Nehemiah in being sad before the king and making a big "ask" of him? If Nehemiah had skipped the prayer and waiting with God and just rushed into the king's presence four months earlier, how might things have unfolded differently?
4. Sunday's message focused also on the interaction between things only God can do and the work and diligence He calls forth out of His people. Take another look at the passage. What do you see that God did? What do you see that Nehemiah did? How did the two work together?
5. Where are you waiting on God in your life right now?
 - How are you committing this to God in prayer?
 - What helps you wait with hope and confidence in God? (Romans 8:24-25, Hebrews 1)
 - Do you sense ways God is changing you during this time of waiting and prayer?
 - Are there things you think He wants you to do while you wait on Him to do the parts only He can do?
6. As we go through this series has God brought to mind a piece of your personal world He wants to restore? Has He burdened your heart for a need outside of your personal world where He may be calling you to be part of His restoring work?