



Week of April 11, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when you became aware of suffering, pain, or injustice which you had not known before. How did it break your heart?
2. Discuss what it must have been like for Nehemiah and the other Jews to be in exile in Babylon.
3. Read the prayer in Nehemiah 1:4-11. If you made an outline of his prayer, what are the parts or themes? How can this be a pattern for our prayers?
4. Paul said, "When God's heart was broken, He acted in love." How did God do that? What difference does this make in your life?
5. What comfort or security might God be asking you to give up in order to live out your purpose in life? How can this group pray for you?

Moving Forward

Purpose is found through giving your life to something bigger than and beyond yourself. When you act on what breaks your heart -- you experience your purpose and find significance. This week, spend some time with God in the tension of this question, "What breaks your heart?"

Nehemiah 1:1-11

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵Then I said:

"Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

⁸"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

¹⁰"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

I was cupbearer to the king.