



Series: Topical
Passage: Nehemiah 1:1-2-10
Title: New Beginnings
Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper, 1/9/2022

Discussion Starter – What New Year’s resolutions were on your list this year, and how has this sermon caused you to reflect on how they line up with God’s will for your life?

Nehemiah's Prayer and Divine Passion (Nehemiah 1:1-11)

- Why do you think Nehemiah cared about Jerusalem since most Jews stayed in Persia even though they were allowed to return Jerusalem after the 70 year Babylonian reign?
- The Persian king Artaxerxes was now in his winter palace in Shushan and Nehemiah was his cupbearer. What was king Artaxerxes’s main passion and desire at this time, and what was the motivation behind it?
- What do you think was going on in Nehemiah’s mind as he heard the report from Hanani? Where do you think Nehemiah’s interest and divine passion came from?
- When comparing the passions of Artaxerxes and Nehemiah we see that “Passions Can be Driven by Selfish Motive or Divine Direction”. Knowing that we are prone to having selfish motives, what were the three ways discussed in the sermon on how we are to measure and see if the goals or passions we have are driven by divine or selfish motives?
- What divine passion has God put on your heart?
- What four things do we see Nehemiah doing in order to draw closer to God and seek His will over this divine passion that has been put on his heart?
- What is the purpose of Godly fasting?
- What position does Nehemiah take as he begins his prayer and why is this important?
- How does Nehemiah incorporate God's word in his prayer?
- What is the significance you see in how Nehemiah addresses repentance in his prayer? What can we learn from this?
- How does repentance lead us to hope? What was behind Nehemiah’s hope in his request before God?

God’s Perfect Timing (Nehemiah 2:1-10)

- How did God bring about the circumstances that invoked this divine interaction between Nehemiah and king Artaxerxes? How long had Nehemiah been praying about this plan?
- Why is Nehemiah dreadfully afraid? What important thing does this show us about his relationship with the king? Read Ezra 4:18-21. What additional insights does this passages reveal about what Nehemiah was facing as he approached king Artaxerxes?
- How did Nehemiah develop a vision to know what to request from the king?
- What were the three fundamental aspects of Nehemiah’s vision that should be included as part of insuring that the godly goals we set are achievable? Describe how Nehemiah used each of these in his request.
- What do kingdom goals accomplish? What are some of the things we should anticipate or expect when we set out to accomplish kingdom goals? Read Ephesians 6:12-13. What insights and truths do these verses impart to us as we step out in faith to further God’s kingdom?