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**INTRO VERSE: PSALMS 63:2-8**

**REVIEW**

W1: God-Centered Heart

W2: Vision and Opposition

## THE STORY

**The setting:**

- Nehemiah 1 says it was in the month of Kislev - roughly November/December) in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes I's reign
- Nehemiah first heard the news about Jerusalem's walls in approx. 446 BC

**Story Points: (Chapter 1-4)**

- Nehemiah finds out about Israel and its walls.
- He is broken, repents, and prays for 4 months.
- He goes before the king for the first time, sad.
- The king asks him what's wrong (Nemiah shares with him).
- The king says, "How can I help?" (Send me, king, with resources.)
- He goes, and when he arrives, he looks around the city.

**Nehemiah 2:4:11 NLT**

<sup>11</sup>So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, <sup>12</sup>I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem.

- He speaks to the people and says, "You know how bad this is. We need to rebuild the walls. God will help us."
- Ch 3 (They rebuild the walls with the people)
- Chapter 4 (A man named Sanballat was very angry)
- They face opposition.
- He mocked, threatened, and rallied to attack
- Their enemies made plans to destroy.
- The men grabbed weapons and had to work while standing guard.

**Nehemiah 4:19-23 NLT**

<sup>19</sup>Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, "The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. <sup>20</sup>When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for us!"<sup>21</sup>We worked early and late, from sunrise to sunset. And half the men were always on guard. <sup>22</sup>I also told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could help with guard duty at night and work during the day.<sup>23</sup>During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

# VISION

**Biblical Vision:** is understanding God's commands and purpose for your life, seeing clearly what He wants you to do, and aligning your actions with His will already revealed according to his word and what he has already done on the cross.

- Nehemiah was....
- Nehemiah looked at what was broken, and it broke him.
- He didn't blame; he repented.
- Ezra 9:5-6, Philippians 2:6-8
- Do you need to pause, pray, pursue?
- God has already spoken (Hebrews 1:1-2).
- We are called to....
- Acts 2:42,44-47

# OPPOSITION

- When we decide to say yes to Jesus, we face attack, opposition.
- The enemy comes and lies.
- When responding to God, it takes grit, perseverance, and patient endurance. (More next week)
- Hebrews 10:35-36 NLT, Hebrews 3:12-14 NIV, Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How was your week? Do you have any prayer requests?
2. What stood out to you the most in the message and story of Nehemiah, and why?
3. Read **Hebrews 1:1-2**
  - o What stands out to you in this passage?
  - o Why is it important to know that He has spoken to us and that we have His revealed will?
4. Do you have any broken areas in different parts of your life that you need to focus on?
5. What does it look like to have a heart like Nehemiah?
6. Read **Ezra 9:5-6**
  - o What stands out to you, and why?
  - o Nehemiah saw what was broken, and it broke him and led him to God. Has that been true for you?
7. Read **Philippians 2:6-8**
  - o What stands out to you?
  - o How does knowing Jesus did this in the midst of our brokenness help us pause, pray, and pursue Him?
8. Read **Hebrews 10:35-36, Hebrews 3:12-14, Hebrews 12:1-2**
  - o What stands out to you?
  - o How can we help others have endurance? How do we grow in endurance?



NEXT STEPS



APP



OVERTIME PODCAST