

“Preparing Through Prayer!”
Nehemiah 1:5-11

Introduction:

1. When It Comes Time To Rebuild That Which Is Broken, What Has To Take Place?
 - After Hearing Of The Condition:
 - Of The Lord’s People!
 - And Of The Lord’s Land!
 - That They Were Broken!
 - Nehemiah Himself Was Broken!
 - This Is Where It Must Start!
2. But Then, What Has To Take Place?
 - Where Do You Go To Get Your Own Broken Heart & Life Fixed?
 - How Do You Become Usable By The Lord To Help Rebuild The Rest Of Those Things That Are Broken?
 - You Do What Nehemiah Does! You Prepare Through Prayer!
 - He Turned To God In Broken, Humble Prayer!
 - Because Only The Lord Can Fix That Which Is Broken!
3. Why Are Things Still Broken?
 - In Our Lives / Families / Church?
 - Because The Broken Condition Has Not Driven Us To Our Knees!
 - We Haven’t Turned To God In Broken, Humble Prayer!
 - When We Have Been Broken, We Are Then In The Condition To Be Used By The Lord!
 - **IE:** Like A Wild Horse - When It Is Able To Be Ridden & Used, It Is Said To Have Been “Broken!” When We Have Finally Been Broken By The Lord, We Must Turn To Him In Prayer!
 - See From Nehemiah, Just The Kind Of Prayer That Is:

1. *We Must Call Upon The Lord!*

- 1:4-5 - “And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, / And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments!”
 - Remember Jeremiah 33:3 - “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not!” – Nehemiah Took These Words To Heart, And Called Upon The Lord In Prayer!
 - He Called Upon The Lord, Because He Remembered:
- Who God Is!
 - The “Lord God Of Heaven!” – A Title That Describes Him As:
 - The Personal God! Jehovah!
 - The Powerful God! Elohim!
 - The Preeminent God! The One Who Dwells Above All Things!
 - Yet, This God – Nehemiah’s God – Can & Wants To Help His People!
 - We Must Call Upon Him! We Get To!
- What God Is Like!
 - “The Great & Terrible God!”
 - His Magnitude! He Is Great!
 - Nehemiah Knew That Only A Great God Could Handle So Great A Problem!
 - 1 Chronicles 16:25 - “For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods!”
 - Psalm 145:3 - “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable!”
 - How Great Is God To You?
 - “My God Is So Big / Great!”
 - Or, Has He Become Small?
 - His Majesty! He Is Terrible / Terrifying!
 - Nehemiah Also Knew How He Had To Approach Such A Great God – With Respect,

- Awe, Honor & Even Fear!
- He Was About To Ask God To Reverse What He Had Already Done!
- Yet This God We Can Turn To For “Help In Time Of Need!” (Hebrews 4:16)
- What God Does!
 - “Keepeth Covenant And Mercy!” - Keep - Retain!
 - Speaks Of His Great Faithfulness!
 - He Is Faithful In His Promises To His People!
 - Deuteronomy 7:9 - “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations!”
 - You Can Trust Him!
 - He Is Faithful In His Passions For His People!
 - **IE:** Like An Eternal Flame - Yet, This Is For Real!
- No Matter How Great The Problem Seems To Be!
 - No Matter How Broke Things Are!
 - Call Upon The Lord!
 - Joel 2:12-13 - “Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: / And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil!”
 - But, Remember There Is A Condition For His Mercy!
 - Do You Love Him?
 - Do You Observe / Keep His Commandments?
 - All That Springs From A Life Of Faith In God!
- Why Are Things Still Broken?
 - Have We Called Upon The Lord In Prayer?

2. ***We Must Confess To The Lord!***

- 1:6-7 - “Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father’s house have sinned. / We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses!”
 - Nehemiah Comes To God With A Humble Request!
- His Confession Is Sincere!
 - “Let Thine Ear & Thine Eyes”
 - He Knows That He Does Not Deserve God’s Mercy!
 - He Realizes That Things Were Broken For A Reason!
 - So He Asks – Sincerely Asks – For The Lord To:
 - Listen! And To Look!
 - Listen! Please! So That My Prayers Will Not Fall On Deaf Ears!
 - Look! Please! So That You Will See The Humble & Broken Condition Of Your People!
 - We Need You!
- His Confession Is In Submission!
 - He Is God’s Servant!
 - The People Are God’s Servants!
 - He Offers Himself & The People Completely To God!
 - To Do With As He Pleases!
 - This Is Exactly Where We Need To Be In Order To Be Rebuilt!
- His Confession Is For Sin!
 - The People’s Sin!
 - His Personal Sin!
 - Humble! Not Just Their Fault! My Fault! My Sin!
 - 1:7 - Becomes Very Detailed!

- In Their Attitudes & Actions!
- This Is True Confession!
 - Greek - Homologeō - To Say The Same Thing As God About Your Sin!
- A Broken Heart Led To Confession Of That Which Caused It To Be Broken!
- Why Are Things Still Broken?
 - Have We Confessed To The Lord In Prayer?

3. ***We Must Cry To The Lord!***

- 1:8-9 - “Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: / But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there!”
 - After Confession, Nehemiah Brings His Plea Before The God He Knows Will Hear & Answer His Prayer!
 - Because He Knows God!
 - And So, He Appeals To His Promise!
- He Pleas: “Remember, I Beseech Thee, The Word!”
 - Your Word!
- A Commanding Word!
 - A Word That Deserves Attention, Submission & Obedience!
 - But, We Have Failed To Give Your Word Anything That It Is Due!
 - No Attention / Submission / Obedience!
- A Convicting Word!
 - That Tells Us Exactly What Has Happened!
 - Why We Are Where We Are!
 - You Kept Your Word!
- A Compassionate Word!
 - 1:9 - “But!”
 - He Provides The Opportunity For His Compassion!
 - Turn! Keep! Do!
 - He Provides The Offer Of His Compassion!
 - Those Who Were Scattered! “Uttermost Part”
 - God Will Gather Them! “Gather Them”
 - God Will Guide Them! “Bring Them”
 - God Will Give Them! A Home With Him!
- Why Are Things Still Broken?
 - Have We Cried To The Lord In Prayer?

4. ***We Must Consecrate Ourselves To The Lord!***

- 1:10-11 - “Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. / O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer!”
 - We Must Learn That When Something Is Broke, It Is God Alone Who Can And Must Fix It!
 - But Then, We, Like Nehemiah, Must Be Willing To Be Used By Him In The Rebuilding Process!
 - We Must Consecrate / Dedicate / Submit Everything We Are & Have To Him & His Service!
 - Does He Have You? All Of You?
- Be Dedicated To God’s Own People!
 - This Is To Be The Focus While Rebuilding!
 - “These Are Thy Servants And They People!”
 - Is This The Perspective We Have Toward Each Other?
- Be Dedicated To God’s Own Plan!
 - “Redeemed!” – This Is His Purpose & Plan In Any Church & In Any Christian!

- Is His Plan Our Plan?
- Be Dedicated In Our Own Prayer!
 - Continue To Seek The Lord In Prayer!
 - “Beseech” / “Day & Night” (1:6)
 - Personal Prayer / Public Prayer! We Need To Pray Together!
- Be Dedicated In Our Own Participation!
 - Nehemiah Was Willing & Ready For God To Use Him!
 - “Prosper, I Pray Thee, Thy Servant This Day!”
 - Are You Willing? Ready? To Be Used By God To Rebuild His Church? “This Day?”
- Remember, All Of These Belong To The Lord!
 - Why Are Things Still Broken?
 - Have We Consecrated Ourselves To The Lord In Prayer?

Conclusion:

1. Then, God Can Use Us In His Rebuilding Plan!
 - As He Did Nehemiah!
 - There Still Will Be Obstacles To Overcome!
 - But We Must Be Broken! This Is Where It Starts!
 - And Then We Must Pray!
 - We Must Pray In This Way!
 - We Must Personally Call Upon The Lord!
 - We Must Personally Confess To The Lord!
 - We Must Personally Cry To The Lord!
 - We Must Personally Consecrate Ourselves To The Lord!
2. Psalm 102:17 - “He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer!”

Grace Baptist Church

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace

www.growatgrace.org

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com