

Living Water Fellowship

8th Sunday after Pentecost

18th July 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *So Good To Me (Zach Williams)*

SONG: *Even So Come*

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

SONG: *This Life I Live*

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: *Nehemiah 1:1-11*

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: *Rest My Soul*

THE MESSAGE: *ROAD TO RECOVERY: REPENT OF THE RUBBISH*

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.**

Worship Video during Communion: Jesus Shall Reign

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

*(Name), **T**child of God,
the Father restores you to Himself! Amen.*

Announcements:

SONG: *Death Was Arrested*

SHOW HIS LOVE

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah.

In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa.² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵ Then I said,

"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands,⁶ listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!⁷ We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

⁸ "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations.⁹ But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth,¹⁰ I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honoured.'

¹⁰ "The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants.¹¹ O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honouring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me."

In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be most important in this text? Why?
2. Why was the Jewish Nehemiah in Susa, Persia instead of living in Jerusalem? What kind of temptations & challenges may have faced Nehemiah in the King's court?
3. Do you ask questions about the welfare of Christian brothers/sisters in other places when someone comes from there? How can we learn about Christians in spiritual or financial trouble or those who are being persecuted?
4. What triggered Nehemiah's concern? Why is that an issue for him but especially for those in Jerusalem? Discuss the difference between Hanani's & Nehemiah's reaction. They both had the same information (in fact Hanani got it first hand) but they respond differently. What may be the reason for the difference?
5. What did Nehemiah recognize as the real reason the walls were torn down? How does his reaction point us deeper into the book & deeper into his relationship with God?
6. Take some time to analyze Nehemiah's prayer. Are there specific petitions that strike you? Is there anything that you can learn from this prayer? Do you ever pray like this?
7. How did Nehemiah "pray himself into" what he perceived as a call from God to serve his people? How do you pray yourself into important moments in your life? If you don't...why not? If you do...what happens?
8. Based on what you read here, what are some of the ingredients of effective prayer? In what ways can prayer change a person's attitude towards life's difficulties or prepare them for big challenges?
9. Why is it a good idea to begin praying by focusing upon the character of the Lord, & not the problem itself? How do the attributes of God have bearing upon what we are praying about?
10. How grieved are you about the physical & spiritual condition of God's people? What are you praying & working toward to see that circumstance improved?
It is important to note that Nehemiah commits himself to the difficult & long-term task of working to improve the situation & faithfulness of God's people. He does not just lament or blame from a distance. What expanded role can you play in the next season of Living Water's life in mission to this city?