

Living Water Fellowship

9th Sunday after Pentecost

25th July 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION Breakthrough (Red Rocks Worship) Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUvLKa_G_98

SONG: The Power of Your Love Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPmqdDybuoA>

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

PSALM 30: READ RESPONSIVELY (see below)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Nehemiah 2:1-20

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: Speak O Lord Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRIJj8xkds>

THE MESSAGE: ROAD TO RECOVERY: RE-CAST THE VISION

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: Do It Again (Elevation Worship) Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQIITxU

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

† _____, (Name), † child of God, may you see the world
and all in it through the eyes of Jesus Christ!

Amen.

Announcements:

SONG: In Christ Alone Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ>

SHOW HIS LOVE

PSALM 30

¹ I will exalt you, LORD, for you rescued me.

You refused to let my enemies triumph over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you restored my health.

³ You brought me up from the grave, O LORD.

You kept me from falling into the pit of death.

⁴ Sing to the LORD, all you godly ones!
Praise his holy name.

⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favour lasts a lifetime!

Weeping may last through the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

⁶ When I was prosperous, I said,
"Nothing can stop me now!"

⁷ Your favour, O LORD, made me as secure as a mountain.
Then you turned away from me, and I was shattered.

⁸ I cried out to you, O LORD.

I begged the Lord for mercy, saying,

⁹ "What will you gain if I die,
if I sink into the grave?

Can my dust praise you?

Can it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear me, LORD, and have mercy on me.

Help me, O LORD."

¹¹ You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.

You have taken away my clothes of mourning and
clothed me with joy,

¹² that I might sing praises to you and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever!

NEHEMIAH 2:1-20

¹⁷ Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. ² So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, ³ but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, & the gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, ⁵ I replied, "If it please the king, & if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

⁶ The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request. ⁷ I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. ⁸ And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, & for a house for myself." The king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

⁹ When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I delivered the king's letters to them. The king, I should add, had sent along army officers & horsemen to protect me. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite & Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel.

¹¹ So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, ¹² 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. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. ¹³ After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, & over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls & burned gates. ¹⁴ Then I went to the Fountain Gate & to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble. ¹⁵ Though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back & entered again at the Valley Gate.

¹⁶ The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. ¹⁷ But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, & its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem & end this disgrace!" ¹⁸ Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, & about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

¹⁹ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, & Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" they asked. ²⁰ I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem."

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 2:1-20. 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. About 3-4 months have passed since Nehemiah heard from Hanani about the on-going rubble-strewn condition of Jerusalem. What has he been doing for this length of time? Have you ever done that for that long? What happened? How can times of sadness or fear also become opportunities to grow in your faith?
3. What ultimately did King Artaxerxes notice about Nehemiah? Why would Nehemiah have been concerned about the king's question? Why is that often right before we step out in faith we get hit hard by fear? What does it tell you when that occurs? How does fear serve as an encouragement to your faith & a provocation to your courage?
4. How do we practically take the step of faith from first hearing a call from the Lord, to then obeying that call? Why is boldness such an integral part of obedience?
5. How did asking permission from King Artaxerxes help validate Nehemiah's call, & reveal his godly character before the king? How do you know when it's time to take action & when it is time to wait?
6. How does Nehemiah's request for written documents from the king demonstrate a balance of taking personal responsibility & trusting God's sovereignty?
7. Once he arrived in Jerusalem, why do you think Nehemiah waited 3 days & then did his research by night? What do you think he was doing during the day time? Why was he so tight-lipped about his plans?
8. Why couldn't the people have just rebuilt the wall themselves? Why did they need Nehemiah? Why do you think they responded so favourably & quickly?
9. Why do you think the other tribal rulers did not want God's people to receive help to improve their situation? How does one effectively break the control of evil in one's life or surroundings? How would Nehemiah need to go about removing the control from the enemies of God's people?
10. What opposition do you face in pursuing God mission to share his love in Christ with the "world" at your fingertips? How do you generally respond? What needs to change for more progress to be made? How can those around you pray for you?