



The Prayer of Nehemiah Nehemiah 1:5-11

Nehemiah 1:5 And I said, “O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

- **Invocation**
- This is the worship that we discussed in our prayer series.
- This is the God that Nehemiah fears and who is the source of his deep faith.
- **Ex. 15:11** “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”
- **Deut. 28:58** If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the Lord your God
- Do you greet God this way?
- As we just taught...the order is significant. **Praise then petition.**
- God keeps covenant. This is huge. This is why it is important to know what God has promised, and what He has not.
- Always keeps steadfast love with His covenant people. Lean on the fact that our God ALWAYS upholds His covenant.
 - Jerusalem would be rebuilt. Messiah would come.
 - The church will prevail. Jesus will come back for His church.
- How do we know we are God’s people? What is the evidence?
 - We love Him.
 - We obey Him.
- **These things (prayer, obedience, humility) don’t earn our relationship w/ God; they REVEAL our relationship with Him!** This is a man who knows God, trusts God.

Nehemiah 1:6-7 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. **7** We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

- **Confession.**
- “Please hear my prayer God. Day and night. Persistence. Psalmists always believed God heard.
- What were the sins of the people of Israel?
- What were the sins of Nehemiah and his father’s house?
- Do you recognize the tone of Nehemiah? Very similar to David in Psalm 51.

- “We have acted **very corruptly.**” Acted wickedly--have offended.
- Corporate sin. Not “they” have sinned. “We” have sinned.
 - When they say, “If only our nation/people/city would call upon the name of the Lord...” **they included** themselves in that corporate sin.
- Individual sin. “Even I and my father’s house have sinned.”
 - Sins of commission. What had they done?
 - Sins of omission. Where had they been silent?

Nehemiah 1:8-10 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, **9** but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ **10** They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

- **Request to remember.**
- Remember your promises God? Remember your covenants?
- **Once you have confessed your sin, you appeal to God’s faithfulness and good deeds, not your own.**
 - We don’t try to “balance the scale” reminding God of the few good things we have done.
 - We appeal to his faithfulness.
 - Our job--to return to Him. We follow Him.

Nehemiah 1:11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

- **Request for success.**
- Hear us, O Lord!
- We delight to fear your name!

What do we do with this example for OUR city?

- Call out to God.
- Confess.
- Appeal to God to have mercy on the wicked, the outcasts, the lost.
- “Laying the matter to heart, he did not begin to speak with other people about what they would do, nor did he draw a wonderful scheme about what might be done if so many thousand people joined the enterprise; but it occurred to him that he would do something himself.” - Charles Spurgeon