

A House That We Can Build

Opening Question

Are you Passionate about the Kingdom? What passions in your life are greater?

Bible Study

Are you Passionate about the Kingdom?

Nehemiah 1:2-4 Voice

when one of my brothers, Hanani, came from Judah along with some other men. I asked them about those Jews who had escaped—who had survived the exile—and about our city, Jerusalem. [3] It's a disaster. The survivors of the exile who are in the Persian province of Jerusalem have been wronged and are hated. The wall of Jerusalem has been reduced to piles of rock, and its gates consumed by flame. [4] **Hearing this, I was overwhelmed with grief and could only sit and weep. For days I mourned this news and sought the audience of the True God of heaven,** praying and fasting before Him.

- Nehemiah was bothered by the state & condition Jerusalem. He didn't just feel it on the surface...it disturbed him.
- Are you that concerned about God's Kingdom?
- God's Kingdom wasn't just something that Nehemiah was a part of or a member in...the Kingdom was his home, his family, his heart. It so disturbed that he felt the need to take personal action.

Your Passion will Illuminate Your Purpose

Nehemiah 1:11 Voice

O Lord, hear Your servant praying to You and pay attention, and not just to my prayers but also to the prayers of these very Jews whose greatest joy is to live in fear and awe of You. **I am asking for success today, God; please make sure this man is compassionate to me,** Your servant. In that day, I was cupbearer to the king.

- Suddenly Nehemiah realizes why he was in the position he was put in.
- As cupbearer he had access and influence on the king
- You can't start with pursuing your purpose...you need to start with your relationship with God and deal with whatever keeps you from being alive inside.

Does God Inspire You?

Nehemiah 1:12 VCE

12 under the cover of darkness, I was accompanied by a small group of men. **The True God had placed a secret plan on my heart**, and there I had left it hidden until the time was right. No one knew what it was I imagined for Jerusalem. With my men walking beside me, I mounted and rode around the city.

- “God placed a plan on my heart” - I have an image in my mind of what Jerusalem is suppose to be!
- What’s your vision for your Jerusalem?
- What’s your vision for your neighborhood, your city?
- Has your relationship with God placed a vision in your heart for your area?

Jerusalem: Your Neighborhood

Nehemiah 3:10,23,28,30 Voice

[10] Jedaiah (Harumaph's son) partnered with Rephaiah, **working directly across from his own house**, as did Hattush (Hashabneiah's son). [23] Benjamin and Hasshub worked on sections directly in front of their homes, then Azariah (Maaseiah's son and Ananiah's grandson) worked on a section beside his home. [28] Beyond the horse gate, each priest repaired the wall section in front of his own house, [30] Then Hananiah (Shelemiah's son) and Hanun (Zalaph's sixth-born son) worked on the next section, and Meshullam (Berechiah's son) worked on the section across from where he lived.

- Nehemiah began to rebuild Jerusalem by getting everyone to build near their home→ Their neighborhood.
- When you take responsibility to build your marriage, your family, & your neighborhood this is how you build God’s Kingdom.
- Do you take responsibility for your neighborhood? The evangelist, the leader in the community?

The power of a million dreams

Nehemiah 4:6 Voice

[6] We returned to building, focused and determined to work as one people. We stacked rock upon rock until one end of the wall met the other and it grew to half of its original height.

Nehemiah 6:15-16 Voice

[15] Even with all that interference, the wall was soon finished. It was the 25th day of Elul. The work had been accomplished in 52 days. [16] When our enemies heard the work was complete and the surrounding nations saw our wall, their confidence crumbled. Only one possible conclusion could be drawn: it was not just our efforts that had done this thing. God had been working alongside us.

- When each of us has an authentic relationship with God that motivates us to take responsibility for the neighborhood our family lives in, we can have an incredible impact

God or Amazon?

1 John 2:15-17 NLT

[15] Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. [16] For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. [17] And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

- Where do you go to feel better? To God in prayer and fulfilling his purposes for your life, or the world for temporary pleasures and comfort?

Choose Purpose over Comfort

Luke 1:16-17 NLT

[16] And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. [17] He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly

Psalms 37:1, 3-5 TPT

[1] ...Don't follow after the wicked ones or be jealous of their wealth. Don't think for a moment they're better off than you. [3] Keep trusting in the Lord and do what is right in his eyes. Fix your heart on the promises of God and you will be secure, feasting on his faithfulness. [4] Make God the utmost delight and pleasure of your life, and he will provide for you what you desire the most. [5] Give God the right to direct your life, and as you trust him along the way you'll find he pulled it off perfectly!

Building in my home

Malachi 2:15 NLT

“Didn’t the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.”

1 Peter 3:5-6 VCE

This is how, long ago, holy women who put their hope in God made themselves beautiful: by respecting the authority of their husbands. Consider how Sarah, our mother, obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him “lord,” and you will be her daughters as long as you boldly do what is right without fear and without anxiety.

Hebrews 11:7 NIV

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

- You can’t build your neighborhood if you neglect building your home
- Do you prioritize building your home? Do you have spiritual goals for how you want your family to become more godly and purposeful?
- What areas in regards to building your home do you lack faith in?

Building In My Neighborhood

Hebrews 11:8 TPT

Faith motivated Abraham to obey God’s call and leave the familiar to discover the territory he was destined to inherit from God. So he left with only a promise and without even knowing ahead of time where he was going, Abraham stepped out in faith.

Hebrews 11:1 NIV

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

James 2:23 NIV

Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God’s friend.

The 4 Levels of Building:

1. **Marriage-** I take responsibility for my spouse’s spiritual condition (Priscilla & Aquila)
2. **Kids-** I take responsibility for my children’s spiritual condition (Mordecai)
3. **Kingdom-** I take care of & adopt Christians into my home (Nehemiah 5:17-18)

4. **Neighborhood-** I take responsibility to build community in my neighborhood (Nehemiah 3:10-33)



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