

The Rollercoaster of Uncertainty

This week's life groups passage

Nehemiah 1:11-2:8

¹¹O 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.

Nehemiah Sent to Judah

²In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Opening: Take some time in your group to get caught up and to ask each other about a time when you felt nudged to do something beyond your ability or comfort zone?

In this past Sunday's message Mike shared some key principles from the life of Nehemiah that can guide us through these emotionally unstable times that we are living in. When we understand and apply these principles' they become a blueprint for stability and success.

Consider the 4 fundamental principles listed below from Sunday's teaching, and discuss the key question for each principle.

#1 Pray, Ponder and Plan. Nehemiah 1: 11

Key Principle; "When the task is beyond you – understand what your part is and what's Gods part."

"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." Nehemiah 1:11

Key Question: Do you get energized or overwhelmed when you face a monumental challenge? What can we learn from Nehemiah regarding this?

#2 Continue to Pray and Wait. Nehemiah 2:1-2

Key Principle; "Waiting is the process that God uses to reveal the character faults he is working on in our lives."

"but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Key Question: Think back to a time when you had to wait for something to come about; perhaps a change in jobs, or attitude; change with a relative or something else. What did God reveal to you about yourself and the character faults he was bringing to your attention?

#3 Continue to Pray and Wait and Trust. Nehemiah 2: 2-4

“The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. Proverbs 21:1

Key Principle; “God is working even when we don’t recognize it”

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” Psalm 37:5

Key Question; Why is trusting God challenging?

#4. When the Opportunity is Ripe -Ask in faith. Nehemiah 2: 4 – 8

Key Principle; “God is never in a hurry - but he is always on time”

“And the King granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.” Nehemiah 2:8

Key Question: If God is asking you to take a step of faith what do you think you need to do to be fully engaged in the process? (Think about Nehemiah how God stirred his heart for 4 months and he realized that somehow, he was going to have to learn to be a construction engineer. (Like learning a new career-☺)

As you wind up consider this ...

“What was it from today’s conversation that the Spirit of God is inviting you to embrace?”