

EFCDP SERMON NOTES • March 9, 2025

Series: *Revival* # 2

“The Key to Blessing” • Nehemiah 1

The Big Idea: *Every Christian can experience the blessing of God if they really want it.*

1. Blessing comes when people seek it. Vv. 1-4

2. Sin stops the blessing of God. Vv. 5-8

3. Repentance restores the blessing of God. Vv. 9-11

Digging Deeper

A guide for personal and small group study for the week of March 2, 2025.



→ Was any part of the message unclear? Which aspect of the message do you think will be the most challenging to apply to your own life?

→ Do you agree with the “big idea” of this passage? Why or why not?

1. Our world is filled with difficult issues/problems. About which of them do you feel most passionate? Why do you think you have greater concern over some rather than others?

2. How would you rate (1-5) the current intensity of your prayer life today? (1=low 5=high) _____

→ When has your prayer life been at its lowest?

→ When has your prayer life been strongest?

→ As you consider these fluctuations, does a theme emerge, such as sin, repentance, suffering, miracles, successes, etc.?

3. Everyone faces hardships in life. When you have gone through those in the past, did you have a group of people praying for you? If so, what difference do you think that made in your life? In theirs?

→ If you have not had prayer partners before, who are people you could invite to be in a prayer team for you?

4. When you are going through difficult times, what would you **most want** your loved ones to do for you?

5. Why did Nehemiah question his brother Hanani about what was happening in Jerusalem?

6. Nehemiah was born and raised in captivity, a foreigner in a distant land from Israel/Judah. What does his reaction to Hanani's report reveal about his heart?

7. Read the following verses, noting the reason for weeping:

- Nehemiah 1:4
- Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
- Acts 20:17-20
- Luke 19:41-44
- Psalm 69:6-12

→ Given these examples, is weeping always a sign of weakness, or could it be an indication of real strength?

→ Do these examples of weeping point to a common character (spiritual) quality? If so, what is it?

8. Read the following passages, noting what they say about God:

- Nehemiah 1:5; 4:14; 8:6; 9:32
- 2 Samuel 7:18-29
- 1 Kings 8:22-26

9. Do you think it is significant that when Nehemiah confessed the sins of the people in Nehemiah 1:6-7, he said "we," rather than "they?"

→ How might this attitude be connected to his decision to ask the king for permission to go to Jerusalem and lead the rebuilding?

→ How might Nehemiah's example of confession mirror the situation in Joshua 7:1 and 11-12?

10. Nehemiah's statement in 1:10 refers to the exodus from Egypt. What impact does his deep knowledge of scripture have on his prayer life?

→ What could you **specifically do** to follow Nehemiah's example so you can have more confidence in your prayer life?

11. How is Nehemiah's attitude in prayer (Neh. 1:9-11) different from that expressed by Elijah in 1 Kings 19:9-10?

- What impact do you think Nehemiah's focus on the character of God had in his prayer life?

12. In Nehemiah 1, upon receiving the bad report about Jerusalem, Nehemiah fasted and prayed, then planned, then executed the plan with confidence because he knew he had God's blessing. Is this the way you have usually made important decisions? Why or why not? What kind of a difference do you think it could have made in your life thus far if you had followed Nehemiah's example more often?

→ What circumstances caused Nehemiah to believe he had God's blessings on his plan to return to Jerusalem and lead the rebuilding?

13. Read Isaiah 6:1-8, then Nehemiah 2:1-8. Do you see any similarities between these two accounts? What role did worship play in their lives and subsequent decisions?

→ When you are faced with a difficult situation or a hard decision, based on what you have seen in this study, do you think you might approach decision-making differently? If so, in what ways?

14. What do the following passages teach about fasting?

- Acts 13:1-4 and 14:23

→ In what situations today might it be wise for believers to follow these examples?

15. What specific aspects of Nehemiah's life and character do you need to apply to your own life?

16. How can you follow Nehemiah's example of prayer to improve your own prayer life? Don't forget to invite the people you listed in question 3 to be your partners in prayer.