

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Chris Payne

Weekend of August 16, 2020

Rebuilding: Does Anyone Care

INTRODUCTION

- Where is the place that you consider to be your “Hometown”?
- To the best of your understanding, what is the biggest change that has taken place in your “hometown”?

This week we were introduced to the Book of Nehemiah and the person named Nehemiah. One of the first things we learned was that Nehemiah is a person who **cared.**

- Describe an experience when you felt like someone really cared for you.

As we prepare to discuss and study the book of Nehemiah let’s begin with prayer. Ask the Lord Jesus to speak directly to your heart as we study and discuss together. Here are some verses to read to focus your mind and heart.

For you are my hiding place;
you protect me from trouble.
You surround me with songs of victory.

The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you. Psalm 32:7-8

INTO THE BIBLE

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

- What are some of the things you learn about Nehemiah and his life from these verses?
- Describe some of the facts/realities that you observe about the people of Israel.
- In what ways is God described in these verses? What attributes are given to him and his character?

Chris described Nehemiah as a man who “cared.”

- What are some of the things in this chapter that you might imagine Nehemiah cared about?
- In what ways was Nehemiah “uniquely positioned” to respond to the need of Jerusalem?

Chris stated that Nehemiah not only “cared” but that he was also willing to answer the call to help. Chris described four ways that Nehemiah cared:

1. He Asked v. 1-3
2. He Wept (showed emotion) v. 4
3. He Prayed v. 5-10
4. He Was Willing v. 11

- Describe what you observe about **the way in which** Nehemiah “cares,” in these four ways, throughout the verses in Nehemiah 1:1-11
- What is your first impression of Nehemiah from these verses?

Complete this sentence: Does anyone care about _____?

APPLICATION

- Which of the four ways Nehemiah cared do you relate to the most?
- What is something that you care deeply about?
- In what ways have you utilized the “four ways Nehemiah cared” (listed in the question above) in responding to the thing you care most about.
- In what ways may God have prepared and equipped you to respond to those around you who might be asking the question “does anyone care?”

Chris stated that Nehemiah went from a “royal robe to coveralls to a frock.”

- What might need to be adjusted in your life in order for you to be able to better, ask, weep, pray, and be available?

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:20-21 (ESV)