

Called to be a Restorer  
Sunday Service -

Series: Standalone message  
Message: Called to be a Restorer  
Speaker: P. Erick Villalvazo  
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Nehemiah 1:1-11

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

Introduction:

When God wants to bring revival and reformation to a land, God raises up a man or a woman. They might be unaware of their calling but God sets up an encounter with them that will shake them to the core. Whether it Moses at the burning bush or Paul on the Road to Damascus, God is able to stir our hearts.

First, he brings revival to the person. The Encounter with Jesus produces a change of priorities. Everything that seemed so important no longer seems important. Moses tended sheep, that was no longer the priority. Paul was being religious and persecuting Christians. Not important anymore.

Nehemiah found himself comfortable. Its been over 70 years since the captivity and exile of the Jews who were first were under the Babylonian empire and then under the Persian

Empire. He was the cupbearer to the king. Probably had a privileged life serving the top man of the land. He had comforts and a life that maybe some envied. But He loved God and he knew the word. But God had a date with destiny awaiting him.

When he hears the state of Jerusalem from one of his brother who had just come back from visiting, he felt a punch in the proverbial gut and begins to weep and mourn. He was being called to be a restorer.

Point 1. God Awakens us to His Reality

2 Chronicles 34:14-19

Joel 2:13

2 Chronicles 34:14-19

While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the Lord, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord that had been given through Moses. Hilkiyah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord." He gave it to Shaphan. Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him: "Your officials are doing everything that has been committed to them. They have paid out the money that was in the temple of the Lord and have entrusted it to the supervisors and workers." Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.

Joel 2:13

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Point 2. Repent with Fasting

Ezra 8:21-23

Ezra 8:21-23

There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, "The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him." So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Point 3. Act

Nehemiah 2:3-5

Nehemiah 2:3-5

but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”