

Recap of 11/18/18 (Nehemiah 1:5-11):

1. Nehemiah, upon hearing about the dire straits the Jewish returnees in Jerusalem were in, immediately began to pray for God's intervention.

-“Nehemiah's life and leadership were marked by prayer. Eight times in this book we read that he prayed spontaneously... Nehemiah prayed at any time, even while talking with others. Nehemiah had also established an intimate relationship with God through times of extended prayer. Nehemiah's prayers included valuable dimensions—praise, thanksgiving, repentance, specific requests, and commitment.” “Prayer is essential for anyone who desires to live a godly life and carry out an effective ministry.” (NLT One-Year Study Bible)

-“[Nehemiah's] first impulse always was to pray.” (Henry Halley)

2. Nehemiah 1:5-11 is a sample of his prayer (“night and day,” vs. 6). After beginning with worship, he then confessed his sin and the sin of the Israelites. Following that he made his request based upon the Word of God in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

-“If we are to pray aright, perhaps it is quite necessary that we pray contrary to our own heart. Not what we want to pray is important, but what God wants us to pray. The richness of the Word of God ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart.” (D. Bonhoeffer)

3. Despite Nehemiah's influential position and obvious talents, his first impulse was not to take matters into his own hands, but to pray for God's leading and intervention.

-“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” (Oswald Chambers)

-“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” (Corrie ten Boom)

-“What about you? Is prayer a regular part of your daily life? Do you rely on God during hard times? Spend some time today thinking about Nehemiah, and let his example motivate you to a life of power...through prayer.” (The Daily Walk Bible)