

'Building Blocks of Faith Series' Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

Message 2—'A Crushing Concern' Nehemiah 1



Nehemiah's prayer is a truly deep, heartfelt, plea with his God. He placed himself prostrate before him, and moved in his heart appealed to the God of heaven. As we saw Nehemiah had and experienced:

- 1. A Crushing Concern** - He cared enough to ask about the state of Jerusalem and was shocked as he heard about the small remnant present in the land, the ruin of a magnificent city that now laid under threat, and the place that had once been testimony to God's great glory now nothing but a reproach. Do we care about the state of the Lord's cause now? Do we care enough to ask and are burdened when we hear the truth?
- 2. A Shattering Situation** - When Nehemiah hears the news, his heart breaks and he weeps, fasts and prays. He does this in private. He is moved when he hears of the sadness of the Lord's cause in Jerusalem, he bears the burden. Do we weep when we see the state of the Lord's cause in this day and age? When we see the church at large riddled with disunity, scandal, compromise? Does it move us to pray?
- 3. An Intense Intercession** - After hearing this, Nehemiah is moved to pray and we were privileged to see one of the most emotional, humble prayers in the Scriptures. He approaches the Lord in the right way, the 'great and awesome God', he confesses his sin and the sins of his people, he claims the promises of God, and then he rests in God's sovereignty and God's ability to accomplish his purposes. Yet, that does not render him inactive, rather he waits on the Lord as we will see today, but is ready to act on the Lord's command. Do we pray aright? Do we have an understanding that when we pray we come before a 'great and awesome God'? Do we confess, plead and rest in our prayers? Are we available to act when the Lord opens the way?



Penzance Baptist Church
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs