

Introduction: God is searching...

"For the eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the whole earth, that He may strongly support those whose hearts are completely His."

2 Chronicles 16:9

...for a select group of people.

The question:

What does it take to make a difference for God? What kind of person does He promise to strongly support?

The answer:

A _____ heart.

¹The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³They 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." ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

- What is a dislocated heart?
- What does a dislocated heart look like?
- How do you develop a dislocated heart?

Prerequisite #2: A _____.

• **Two Timeless Axioms Concerning God's Character:**

- God hates _____ 100% of the time. Proverbs 8:13
James 4:6
- God responds to a _____ 100% of the time. Psalm 51:16-17
Isaiah 57:15

How do we develop a broken spirit?

Our Model = Nehemiah

- **A broken spirit begins with a _____.**

⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and obey His commands, ^{6a}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.

Nehemiah 1:4-6a

- **Application: Worship** (i.e. Isaiah 6:1-6)

- A broken spirit leads us to an _____.

^{6b}I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against You. ⁷We have acted very wickedly toward You. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws You gave Your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:6b-7

- **Application: Repentance and Confession** (i.e. James 4:7-10)

- A broken spirit results in a renewed commitment to fulfill _____.

⁸Remember the instruction You gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹but 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.'

¹⁰They are Your servants and Your people, whom You redeemed by Your great strength and Your mighty hand. ¹¹O 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.

Nehemiah 1:8-11

- **Application: Intercession** (i.e. James 5:16)

Summary principles for impact:

1. We must let God work deeply _____ us before He will work significantly _____ us!
2. Until we make prayer a _____, progress, and power will never be a _____.
3. Difference Makers are not necessarily those with “a lot to give,” but those who make available all they have.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a “broken spirit?” Why do you think God always responds so positively to those who come with a broken spirit?
2. How does one cultivate or develop “a broken spirit?” (See Nehemiah’s model – 3 aspects.)
3. Share one area of your life in which God spoke to you through this message and our time of confession and prayer together.
4. What one thing will you do beginning this week to be a Nehemiah in your world? Tell someone your plan and ask them to check up on you.