

Nehemiah 1 Reflection Questions

Read Nehemiah 1:1-2:4.

Reflection questions

1. What evidence is there of a listening heart in this passage?
2. What are some of the ways Nehemiah's prayer points to the heart and ministry of Jesus?
3. Though we have no evidence of Matthew quoting Nehemiah or intentionally echoing his story, what are some of the kingdom themes evidenced in both Nehemiah's prayer and the the beatitudes of the sermon on the mount (Mt. 5:3-12).
4. How can fasting be viewed through the lens of listening? What does God say in Isaiah 58:6-11 that helps us understand the nature of true fasting and mourning?
5. As Nehemiah marinated in the scriptures, he found God's heart for the restoration of His people. He also found himself in this story longing for God to gather back to himself all those that have been scattered (Neh 1:9-10, from Lev 26 and Deut 4). As you now read this story, how do you find yourself? Are you one of the scattered? Are you longing to be part of his rescue and restoration of others? How does the sermon on the mount shape this longing for you? Tell your story! Listen well to each other!