

## **Nehemiah (God is Faithful)**

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### **Nehemiah 1:5-11**

5 And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. 8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, 9 but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' 10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

### **Psalm 139:23-24**

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

In Nehemiah's prayer there is a recognition that they sinned against God.

- Worldly sorrow – is the sorrow of self-pity, getting caught, and over the consequences sin brings.
- Godly sorrow – is a heart-felt conviction that we have offended God by our sin. Cf. John 16:8; 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

**Jeremiah 31:33** *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

### **Ezekiel 11:19-20**

19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

### **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put

my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

**Hebrews 8:10** *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

### **2 Corinthians 3:3, 16-18**

*3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

**2 Timothy 2:13** *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

### **Discipleship Homework:**

Continue considering **fasting** and **praying** to grow your faith and understand God's heart for the mission.

*Here are some Scriptural examples of fasting:*

- Regular Fast - 2 Chronicles 20; regular fast is done by abstaining from all food, both solid and liquid, except for water; Jesus did this in Matthew 4.
- Partial Fast - Daniel 10; spent 3 weeks fasting from certain foods (whole grains, fruits, vegetables, beans, nuts, and seeds).
- Absolute/Total Fast - Esther 4; when she found the plans for the Jews to be killed in Persia, she and the other Jews fasted from food and water for 3 days, before entering the king's court to ask for mercy. Moses did this for 40 days on Mt. Sinai, which was a miracle (Deut. 9:9); Elijah also when he fled for his life in wilderness (1 Kings 19).

*This week pray David's prayer:*

Psalm 139:23-24

*23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!*

*24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*