Dare to be the Difference
Nehemiah 2:1-8
Sermon Outline

1. A Heavy Heart (vs. 1-3):

   1. It was time for Nehemiah to serve the king endlessly but he never overcame the pain of knowing the suffering and devastation that was in Jerusalem.
   2. Nehemiah continued to do his job even though he was overwhelmed with concerned for the devastation that his people were experiencing.
   3. Many times, we are convicted and our hearts are heavy, but we must still act.
   4. Nehemiah was so overwhelmed with love and care for his people that even though he knew it was not wise to be sad in the king’s presence he could not restrain himself.
   5. Nehemiah had never been in the presence of the king with sadness on his heart. It was not in his best interest to do so.
   6. Nehemiah had a negative attitude that did not meet up to the standards expected when someone was in the king’s presence.
   7. Nehemiah expected the king to do him harm for being sad in his presence.
   8. Nehemiah did not allow his fear to overcome his faith in God. Nehemiah responded to the king from his heart rather than changing his countenance to please the king.
   9. Despite Nehemiah’s fear he was relentless in letting the king know why he was in a state of sadness. Remember that this is the king that stopped the people in Jerusalem from rebuilding the wall.

2. Not Fear Faith (vs. 4):

   1. The king spoke directly to Nehemiah demanding a response.
   2. The king wants to know what is Nehemiah seeking to secure that he has loss but have a legal right to it.
   3. Nehemiah’s response is vintage. He is back to the very place he started.
   4. Nehemiah’s response demonstrates his level of dependence on God.
   5. Many times, we pray about the issues God has placed before us but there is no action.

3. Not Just a Plan…. a Plan to Action (vs. 5-8):

   1. Nehemiah spoke up with no intent to stop addressing the issue before the king.
   2. There is a sense of boldness after Nehemiah prays. Nehemiah acts as if God has heard him and will render him favor before the king.
   3. Even Nehemiah is sad, and acts as if God has heard him and is with him, he is wise enough to know that whatever he does must be of practical or economic benefit to the king.
   4. Nehemiah counts on his relationship with the king. He is trusting that the king knows that he has been good to him and has demonstrated a righteous character before him so Nehemiah can be trusted.
5. The king’s response seems to agree that Nehemiah was someone he can trust and has been of great benefit to him.
6. Nehemiah had already calculated how long it will take him to accomplish what needs to be repaired. This highlights the level of knowledge Nehemiah had of the circumstances in Jerusalem. It also gives credit to why he was so sad.

1. The king continuously worked to get him what he requested and gave it to him.
2. Nehemiah views the king’s financial support as coming from God.
3. The power king who responds in this manner only highlights how power and mighty God is.
4. The king’s response highlights that God did not forsake Jerusalem and He has dominion over everything and everyone.
5. God had the power to resolve this the entire time but choose to wait on someone who was passionate enough, courageous enough to trust Him and make a difference.