

Rebuild

Nehemiah 2:1-6

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. ² So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴ Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it." ⁶ The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date.

REFLECTION

In this second week of our *Rebuild* sermon series, we explore how to transform our burdens into a vision for our lives. Last week we were asked to hold out our places of discomfort in prayer to see if a burden might form. Nehemiah held onto his burden for months, so the practice of patience will be important for us through this process.

What was it like for you to hold your discomfort out to God? What burdens are developing for you?

Nehemiah held out his mourning before God, and it was refined into a sense of calling. This vision would not have materialized had it not been for his relationship with the King. This week, we look at how biblical community is essential for taking our burdens and refining them into a vision.

Discuss these characteristics of biblical community and why this kind of community is essential for us:

- 1) **Invest in community before we need it.** The King and Nehemiah had a relationship before he realized his burden.
- 2) **Surround ourselves with people who challenge our opinions, not with "yes" people.** The King and Nehemiah came from different backgrounds and cultural experiences.
- 3) **Give authority to others in our life. Nehemiah could not have carried out his calling without the support of the King.**

Our burdens can transform into visions as we share them with others. It is vital to plan your time with either an existing or new community. How does community look for you? Where might God be calling you to join others?

Heavenly Father, thank you for this relationship between Nehemiah and the King and what we can learn from it. Guide us this week to plan and spend time with those through whom our burdens can shape into callings. Amen.