

*We > Me*

*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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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?" <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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

As we enter into this third week of our *Rebuild* series, we look at same scripture passage as last week, but in a slightly different way. The source of Nehemiah's mourning and burden is larger than himself (v.3): "*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?*" God created us to come alive when we're part of something bigger than ourselves. ***How have you come alive through serving something bigger than your own interests?***

Everything about Nehemiah's call involves seeing pain and need, and moving to that place. When we talk about the habit of service, we're not referring to charity work or volunteer hours. Service is as much a spiritual discipline as being in prayer, or in a small group. Think about how we can support you to live out our mission statement. ***Fill in the blank with your current home and/or work roles: What does it mean for you to be a Christian and a \_\_\_\_?***

God intends for us to live integrated lives, seven days a week for a *distributed*, not *centralized* purpose. ***This week, let's think creatively with our family and community about what burdens we might be feeling that we can't quite shake. May we continue to hold out our places of need, so that our burden may be refined through a vision.***

*Heavenly Father, empower us to come alive by stepping into a story bigger than ourselves. Help us to seek to refine our burden through the power of solitude and community this week. Amen*