

## Gracious Guidance

### Rebuild

Nehemiah 2:7-10

#### 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

*And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me. Nehemiah 2:8*

#### REFLECTION

As Nehemiah moves forward with his calling to help the people of Jerusalem, he senses that God's hand is still upon him: *And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me* (v. 8). This is a reminder to us that no place is closed off from God's place and purpose, no matter how small or weighty the task. ***When have you felt God's gracious hand in the midst of an overwhelming process or task?***

As Christians we can rest in the hope that Christ has a purpose wherever we find ourselves. Many of us have experienced over this past year a "telos crisis," or a crisis of purpose, [as described by David Brooks](#). It has been reported that 40% of the global workforce considered leaving their jobs this year, and more people than ever voluntarily quit their jobs. ***How well can you relate to this malaise of uncertainty? How has this past year impacted how you approach work?***

A calling is not just a dream for our life, but a burden that we develop for something greater than ourselves. God's plan has always been to partner with humanity to some redemptive end, and that is no different for each of us today. Nehemiah's calling to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem did not involve any specific gifts or talents on his part. ***Have you ever been surprised to receive a specific calling or task for which you had no experience or skills? How can this truth help you to reevaluate your purpose?***

[Andy Crouch explains that we have three callings as Christians](#), and if we get the first two right, the third is sure to follow: 1) to bear image of God, 2) to restore image of God, and 3) to fulfill our *contingent calling* by making the most of today with the circumstances we are given. As we go through this process, we will learn that we will not only meet God but others will share the same calling and help us. ***How, with your existing abilities and opportunities, can you be of greatest service to others this week, knowing what you know of God's will and human need?***

*Heavenly Father, we trust that any work we do in this world is sacred. Reveal to us how You might be sending us to use our gifts and talents for the good of the world. We believe that we go nowhere by accident, and that You call us to work right where we are. May we feel your presence walking alongside us and dwelling within us this week. Amen.*