



JANUARY 12, 2020
SERMON NOTES
"A DIFFERENT APPROACH"
NEHEMIAH 1:4-6



I. Nehemiah's heart is stirred

- A. Nehemiah's story takes place approximately ninety years _____ the "Jewish Exile" ended.
- B. Nehemiah's _____ was stirred and he paid attention.

II. A better question

- A. The question we need to ask ourselves is "what _____ my heart?"
- B. Jesus taught that devotion to God is _____ in terms of our devotion to others.
- C. Jesus taught that people have _____ value.

III. Divine design

- A. Nehemiah's broken heart was by _____ design.
- B. We need to _____ the burden God has put on our hearts.
- C. If you really want to become a _____ person, do something to make the world or someone's world a better place.

Things I would like to remember about this message:

Asbury Daily Study Guide

Monday: Nehemiah 1:1–11

After Nehemiah received a report about the terrible conditions in Jerusalem he “sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before God in heaven.” (v. 4) His heart was stirred to do something about the problem. He responds to God’s call to attend to the suffering and chaos in Jerusalem. Do you believe that God stirs human hearts to pursue divine purposes? If so, do you believe God might stir your heart? Why or why not? What is one thing you can do this week to begin to identify what breaks your heart?

Tuesday: Mark 10:35-45

In this passage Jesus is teaching his disciples about true greatness “whoever wants to be great must become a servant.” During the message, Pastor Eric said, “Jesus taught that devotion to God is measured in terms of our devotion to others.” Respond to that statement. In what ways does it challenge your assumptions about faith?

Wednesday: Mark 1:40-45

Jesus was moved with pity/compassion (depending on your translation) to heal the man with a skin disease. Jesus didn’t just feel compassion for this man, he acted compassionately. What are some things that prevent you from moving from just feeling compassion for others to acting compassionately on others’ behalf?

Thursday: Leviticus 23:24-25

This passage is the institution of the Jewish New Year referred to as “Rosh Hashanah.” The name “Rosh Hashanah” is not used in the Bible to discuss this holiday. The Bible refers to the holiday as the “day of remembrance” which has little similarity to the American traditions of New Years. There is, however, one important similarity between the Jewish New Year and the American one: Many Americans use the New Year as a time to plan a better life, making “resolutions.” Likewise, the Jewish New Year is a time to begin introspection, looking back at the mistakes of the past year and planning the changes to make in the New Year. Did you make a New Year’s resolution? If so, what motivated you to make it?

Friday Nehemiah 2:1-8

Nehemiah did some extraordinary things and Jewish people valued his story so much it became part of the Jewish scriptures. He became a hero of the Jewish people. Talk about one of your heroes—either someone from history or someone you knew personally. What qualities did that person have that made you look up to him or her?

MOVING FORWARD

This is that time of year when we become painfully aware of where we are not, who we are not, and what we need to do differently. Traditionally, the New Year is a season of self-absorption. It’s all about what we can do to make ourselves better people. The result is that churches, health clubs, debt counselors, and vitamin shops do a booming business. If you really want to become a better person, do something to make the world a better place. Be a means to an end. So this week ask yourself “what breaks my heart?” What needs to be done around me?

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) after, B) heart.
IIA) breaks, B) measured, C) inherent.
IIIA) divine, B) embrace, C) better.