



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:5

Selfless prayer isn't just asking God to change things out there. It is also about asking God to selflessly change us, to give us His heart. When we have His heart, we care about the things He cares about and that's when things out there really start changing.

Nehemiah is one of the exiles, and hears about the destruction of Jerusalem. He is broken about the news and prays. But during this prayer, he realises that he is part of the solution, he has a position and platform to *be the answer* to his prayer. It isn't easy, it was a risk and sacrifice but He know God had the power to change things!

Other examples of people 'being the answer' to prayers: Moses; Isaiah (Isaiah 6); Corrie Ten Boom (modern day example). The greatest example is Jesus, His prayer in John 17 and in Gethsemane – He selflessly gave His life as the ultimate answer to sin, brokenness and death.

Sometimes we need to do more than pray. Not because prayer isn't powerful or necessary, because it is. But sometimes after we've prayed, God is asking us to move. To invest more than our words. To invest our time, our energy, our money, our gifts and our presence. God calls the body, the hands and feet of Christ, to be selfless in prayer AND in action.

True selfless prayer makes us active partners in God's work to answer prayer.

"What is my only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but belong body and soul to my faithful saviour, Jesus Christ." (*Heidelberg Catechism*)

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: On a scale of 1-10, rate your prayer life (10 being you're pretty much Jesus). Has it changed at all over this month during this preaching theme? Or is this something that has inspired you that you would like to implement in your life?

READ: Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:5

- As the destruction of Jerusalem broke the heart of Nehemiah, what issues in our world break your heart? How can you pray more into this issue? Do you see yourself as part of the answer?

READ: Jeremiah 29:7

- How can we pray more selflessly for the "shalom of our city"? What does this look like practically? (one example: 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

READ: Ephesians 6:16-20

- How can we "be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people?" What does this look like in your life?
- Spend time together as a group praying for "all the Lord's people".

True selfless prayer makes us active partners in God's work to answer prayer, to glorify His name and bring His kingdom.

- This week, what is your selfless prayer and how can you actively partner with God and be part of the answer? Take notes, keep each other accountable and pray for each other this week as you step into prayer and action.

PRAY: Pray that God would continue to shape and mould our hearts and minds, to be selfless in our prayers and everyday lives, forever focused on the King and His Kingdom.