

Questions for Personal or Family Devotions
Sunday, November 2, 2014

Read Nehemiah 1-2

1. When Nehemiah learned of the sad state of Jerusalem, he wept, mourned, and fasted. Do reports of the sad state of a church affect you the same way? Why or why not?
2. When you hear bad reports about the state of a church, do you instinctively pray the way that Nehemiah did when he heard about Jerusalem? Explain your reaction.
3. How do you think Nehemiah became a person who was so concerned about Jerusalem? What can we do to increase our personal investment in spiritual matters?
4. How do you think Nehemiah became someone who instinctively responded to challenges by crying out to the Lord? What can we do to develop a habit of prayer?
5. What things in your life should concern you more than they do?
6. What things in your life are there about which you should be crying out to the Lord and making plans for the opportunity you may get to address the situation?
7. If the Lord gave you an opportunity to advance His kingdom, what aspects of "staying in the Persian palace" would be most tempting? How can you put that enticement in the proper perspective?
8. When you come into a new situation like the one awaiting Nehemiah in Jerusalem, do you have a tendency to go straight to work, or do you have the patience to survey the situation first?
9. To what did Nehemiah appeal when he sought to motivate the people in Jerusalem to join him in the rebuilding of the walls? How does that still function as a motivation today?
10. How would you characterize Nehemiah's response to Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem? To whom should we respond in like manner today?

Questions taken from *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Ezra and Nehemiah* by James M. Hamilton Jr. B&H Publishing Group, 2014.