



Mission at Home

Seminars 1 and 2

- 1. Understanding the needs in your Community**
- 2. Recognising the opportunities in your community**

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Keswick 2018 Session 1 - Understanding the needs
in your community
Nehemiah Chapter 1

The year is 445 BC

The news “The walls of Jerusalem are broken down...”

Recap...

597 Babylon attacks Judah

586 Jerusalem falls to Babylon, Temple and walls destroyed

538 First Jews return to Judah

536 Work begins to rebuild the Temple

516 Temple completed and dedicated

“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept!”

Key questions...

- How does God feel about the brokenness in our world?
- What will change me?
- What will bring sustained growth in our church?
- What will bring transformation to our nation?

We need:

Not new news. Not a new message. But a new perspective.

“whenever God wants to build something of great worth and value, in or through us, he will often do it through brokenness.”

At the very outset of today, we need to know 3 things...

- 1. God loves this nation**
- 2. God loves His church**
- 3. God wants the church to be the instrument of change, transformation and rebuilding – and so He must begin the work in us!**

God almost always accomplishes his purposes through brokenness.

Like Nehemiah we need to have:

- 1. An Open Mind**

Nehemiah means “The Lord comforts!”

Someone has said that the work of the Holy Spirit is to comfort the disturb, and to disturb the comfortable!

Where to find information, and ask questions...

www.ons.gov.uk/help/localstatistics (Office for National Statistics)

Filter by age, sex, ethnicity, and area.

Loneliness...

www.data.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-maps/england-2016/

Recent survey ‘Talking Jesus’ revealed some interesting facts:

65% of non-Christians in England know a practising Christian (and like them)!

46% of non-Christian young people in England are not sure that Jesus was a real historical person!

Nehemiah had, and we need:

2. Open eyes and ears

Loneliness statistics

- Around 10% of the UK population is chronically lonely, campaigntoendloneliness.org
- The Mental Health Foundation has suggested that 48% of people think we are getting lonelier in general.
- 7% of older people are in contact with family, friends and neighbours less than once a week and 11% are in contact less than once a month (Victor et al, 2003)
- Over half (51%) of all people aged 75 and over live alone (ONS, 2010)
- Two fifths all older people (about 3.9 million) say the television is their main company (Age UK, 2014)
- 63% of adults aged 52 or over who have been widowed, and 51% of the same group who are separated or divorced report, feeling lonely some of the time or often (Beaumont, 2013)
- 59% of adults aged over 52 who report poor health say they feel lonely some of the time or often, compared to 21% who say they are in excellent health (Beaumont, 2013)
- A higher percentage of women than men report feeling lonely some of the time or often (Beaumont, 2013)

3. An Open Heart

4. Open Hands

Key lesson from chapter 1, whenever God wants to build something of great worth and value, in or through us, he will often do it through brokenness.

Keswick 2018 Session 2 - Recognising the opportunity in your community

Nehemiah chapter 2

There is no doubt that Nehemiah felt called by God to undertake the task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, however, it would be wrong to think of his task as simply about walls...

The Nehemiah Model...

- 1. Rebuilding a physical wall – meeting our need for security. (chapters 1-4)**
- 2. Restoring a social framework – meeting our need for morality. (chapter 5)**
- 3. Renewing spiritual foundations – meeting our deepest need, a relationship restored with God. (chapters 8-13)**

This model is also apparent in the ministry of Jesus, as he met physical needs, challenged moral situations, and led people into spiritual relationship with God

The obstacles in Nehemiah's way:

- 1. Lack of proximity**
- 2. Lack of Knowledge**
- 3. Lack of experience**
- 4. Lack of finance**
- 5. Lack of freedom**
- 6. Lack of political will**
- 7. Lack of workforce**

Remember from a key lesson from chapter 1,

whenever God wants to build something of great worth and value, in or through us, he will often do it through brokenness.

The key today is to discover that

when God calls us to do a work, it will often be against received or perceived wisdom, and humanly speaking, against the odds.

“What can I do?”

Wait

Pray

Plan

If God gives you a burden about something, he will expect you to pray and act.

In Chapter 2 we see the importance of:

- 1. Prayerful planning**
- 2. Careful survey**
- 3. Mission motivation**

- 1. Prayerful planning (v1-10)**

Keep asking questions – “What can I do!” “What should I do next!”

Vision questions “What outcome do I want?”

2. Careful Survey v11-16

Part of our problem as local churches is that we do not actually know the genuine needs in our own communities.

Neighbourhood Chaplains

3. Motivation for Mission

i. Personal identification

We are in a mess!"

ii. PP Honesty about the problem

Churchill promised only "Blood, sweat, toil and tears!"

The truth is, people follow inspired leaders, not programmes.

As someone once said "The challenging actions of the few, mobilize the many!"

iii. A Call to action
Let us rebuild!

A Holy Boldness!

www.Advance2020.org

iv. PP Personal testimony

- What about us?
- What about you?
- Your town, city, community needs Jesus.

Remember

- God Loves your community
- God loves the church
- God has called his church to be the agent of change, transformation, and rebuilding in this land.

But, remember,

when God calls us to do a work, it will often be against received and perceived wisdom, and humanly speaking, against the odds.