

Dreaming with God Part 3: Vision Beyond the Ruins

Nehemiah 2: 11-18

Intro: Nehemiah travels to Jerusalem, Nehemiah chose not to work for the first three days, but was taking time to EXAMINE and INSPECT the walls of Jerusalem. He didn't tell anyone what he was doing, but in solitude he was PROCESSING the work ahead of him.

Main point: When we look at our lives with our physical eyes, we may not like what we see, but when we look through the eyes of faith, through the lens of Christ and grace, then we can see that restoration is not only possible, but is a promise

Intro Question: What do you see when you examine your life? Do you see your faults, failures, or flaws? Do you see the broken-down ruins of hurts, betrayals, rejections, and dreams that never came to past?

1. Inspect the Past to Clear Out the Rubble

- Let go of the baggage
- Learn the Lessons
- Process your pain
- Receive the Gospel

Because of Christ, WE HAVE A NEW PAST – Old Things are passed away. The Old You died with Christ.

2. Examine the Present to Prevent Repeated Cycles

Examine the thoughts, patterns, and behaviors to see if they are leading us forward or backward

- Examine our hearts
- Examine our thoughts
- Examine our motives

Because of Christ, YOU ARE A NEW CREATION

3. Visualize the Future in Response to God's Word

Your future is not determined by WHAT YOU SEE, BUT WHAT GOD SAYS!

v. 17 "You see the trouble..." v. 18 "I also told them..." – YOU SEE THE TROUBLE BUT I TOLD THEM WHAT GOD SAID!

The problem is... some of us CAN ONLY SEE THE RUINS... not the vision of God's restoration

- You see your **sin**, but God says you're **righteous**
- You see your **dirt**, but God says you're **clean**
- You see your **faults**, but God says you're **forgiven**
- You see your **brokenness**, but God says you're **whole**
- You see yourself **struggling**, but God says you're **blessed**

It is for **FREEDOM** that Christ has set you free!

Spiritual formation is allowing to Holy Spirit to bring about in our lives, what God says is already true about us in Christ.