

## Sermon Notes – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 'Finding God's Purpose for Your Life'

### Read Nehemiah Chapter 1

Nehemiah was impacted by the news that Jerusalem's walls still lay in ruin.

- Why did this news hit him with such force and result in such an outpouring of prayer and emotion (v4)?

David Wilkerson ('The Cross and the Switchblade') was impacted by the photographs of New York teenagers charged with murder. This changed his life and ministry; similarly with Duncan and Jenny Dyason who founded the Toybox charity.

- Have you ever felt an emotional impact by something you have seen or heard? How did you respond?
- Have you ever pleaded with God like Nehemiah or Moses? What has been the result?
- How can you be part of the answer to the prayers you have been praying recently?

### Read chapter 2.

VI8 records the response of the people to Nehemiah's call.

- What element is most needed for motivating God's people to get involved in the work?
- One of our core values is 'All Involved'. How might we encourage one another to take our place and serve Jesus in the building of His Kingdom, shoulder to shoulder, side by side, brick by brick?

The people worked 'with all their heart' (4:6) despite opposition, threats, mockery and ridicule. The temptation to give up (4:10) and pursue a quiet life must have been very real for the people of God then, as it is for us now.

- How can we resist that temptation to give up when we feel discouraged and defeated?

Rubble in our work (4:10) can take many forms: procrastination, discouragements, fear, unbelief, boredom or just plain dislike for a job.

- What rubble do you need to clear away so that you can get on with the task God has given you in this New Year?

God was able to use Nehemiah to fulfil his purposes because he came before him in earnest, fervent, passionate prayer with fasting. What place might prayer have in helping you to find God's purpose for your life?

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