

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 2 1-10



Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and wipe away our sins for your name's sake.
Psalm 79:9

Praising:

Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the
night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my
heart.

Reading:

Nehemiah 2:1-10
Nehemiah petitions his King

Nehemiah cannot disguise his pain at the plight of the Jews and their beloved Jerusalem. Before outlining his plan to rebuild the city, Nehemiah prays to God, presumably for a favourable hearing from the king. The queen to his side, Artaxerxes accedes generously to Nehemiah's request for leave, and to his additional request that Artaxerxes should supply him with some letters. These letters will both

guarantee Nehemiah's safe passage to Judah, and secure a supply of wood for the reconstruction of the city's gates and walls. Nehemiah attributes the king's open-hearted response to the gracious hand of God and he sets off on his mission. The frustration and resentment of Sanballat and Tobiah confirms that the Jews still have enemies. According to Ezra chapter 4, local leaders had hindered the same restoration work when Zerubbabel tried to undertake it.

Listening:

Praying:

Break our hearts Lord, for those all around us who find themselves in need

- to give money and food, clothing and shelter, for the desperate and the destitute
- to raise the plight of the vulnerable before those with power to make things better
- to answer the cries, wipe away the tears, and lend a hand ourselves however we can

Father: bring to my mind the person or the people you want me to help. Show me what to do to make a real difference to their situation. Much the way Jesus did – with everyone he met.
Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 06 September 2016