

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 1 1-11



Remember not our former sins;
let your compassion make haste to meet us, for we are brought very low.
Psalm 79:8

Praising:

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that's cleansed by the
blood
so freely shed for me.

Reading:

Nehemiah 1:11
Nehemiah prays for his people

Chronicles ends with the destruction of Jerusalem and the carrying away of treasure and captives. Nehemiah (probably one book with Ezra originally) relates the return of exiles to Jerusalem in the middle of the fifth century BC. These exiles had godly priorities such as reconstructing the altar, the temple and the city. Nehemiah himself is working as a butler, a privileged palace servant at the winter residence of the Persian

King Artaxerxes I. On learning that the surviving Jews are mourning the disarray in Jerusalem, Nehemiah responds to their plight emotionally and prayerfully. He begins with confession, acknowledging before God his own sin, the sin of his family and the sin of his whole people. Then Nehemiah pleads with God to honour his earlier promise to Moses that if the people sincerely return to the Lord, he will be merciful.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for spiritual honesty before you

- for ourselves first, that we would see the sin in our own lives before anyone else's
- for the ones we love who are good in so many ways yet cannot see their need of you
- for the people and nation around us who reject your holy wisdom and divine values

Father: salvation starts with me acknowledging my sin. My brokenness before Christ. My shame at his punishment. My tears at his grave. My eternal joy at his empty tomb. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 05 September 2016