Broken World

BUMPER VIDE: BROKEN WORLD

We live in a broken world. Disease, Starvation, Abortion, Divorce, Murder, Suicide, Genocide, Same sex marriages, Drugs, Depression, Racism, Hate, Lies, Stealing, Greed… These have become a way of life in this broken world. Of course God didn’t create this world to be ruled by evil. He create the world with love. He proclaimed the world he built as “good.” Yet the world we are living in is very different from that “good” world.

**Weep for a broken world**

There was man named Nehemiah. He was living in Babylon - exiled from Jerusalem. He was forced to serve the king as cup bearer. He would taste the wine to make sure it wasn’t poisoned. Not a great job.

Nehemiah 1:2-4 (NIV)

**2**Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

**3**They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire. ”

**4**When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.

I find this interesting. Nehemiah had never been to Jerusalem. He had spent his entire life exiled in Persia. It would have been real easy not to care about a place you’ve never been. But Nehemiah did care. He sat down and wept.

If you want to make a difference in a broken world you must WEEP. Stop what you are doing and just cry about it. Feel it on the inside. Sometimes we avoid “feeling.” We change the channel… we tune people out… we look past. We try our best to ignore a BROKEN WORLD.

You won’t care if you don’t feel!

You won’t pray for the sick until you feel their sickness.

You won’t reach out to the hungry and homeless until you feel their pain.

Churches can become so insulated from the world that they stop feeling.

Christ Feels…

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin.

Nehemiah sat on the ground and cried about something broken in a far away land.

We need to feel – but don’t stop there. We need to act.

**Pray and Fast for a broken world**

So many times we come to the altar and feel the need. We have ourselves a good cry. We feel God’s presence. These moments are important. But it isn’t a stopping place.

Nehemiah did more than cry – He fasted and prayed.

If you want to change a hurting world you will need to pray and fast.

Nehemiah cried – he felt the need – then he started to act – he prayed and fasted for days.

Nehemiah does something that most bible heroes don’t do. Most bible heroes have a burning bush experience like Moses, or hear God’s voice like Abraham, or speak to an angel like Gideon, or get slapped around in the desert like Saul who became Paul. Throughout the book of Nehemiah we never see that Nehemiah had a moment like that. He never saw a vision. He never received a prophecy or saw the red sea parted. **EXCUSE: God hasn’t talked to me**

Far too often we don’t act when we see a broken world. We tell ourselves that we would act if God spoke to us. I would share Christ with my friends if an angel spoke to me. I would give in the offering if God let me win the lottery. I would do something amazing for God if I heard his audible voice.

Perhaps we see the pictures the missionary shows and we cry a little, but we wait for God to speak to us before we act… If you want to change your world you have to #1 Feel and #2 Act!

Sprit filled churches have gotten really good at the feeling part but we need to see some action.

Nehemiah acted on behalf of a broken city. He prayed and fasted… and he approached the king of Persia… Nehemiah traveled back to Jerusalem and started to rebuild the wall.

Nehemiah was a cup bearer… We can safely say he didn’t know the first thing about building a wall. He wasn’t a contractor or an engineer. He was a poisoned wine detector… **Excuse: I don’t know how**

Over the next 90 days you are going to placed in situations that you have no experience. Some of you have never shared your testimony and you might say I don’t know how. You may have never worked in a garden but don’t let that stop you. You might not be all that familiar with how to pray – but that would be a poor excuse for not going on the prayer walk. Nehemiah didn’t know how but he did it anyway!

Another excuse we use is: **I don’t have time**

When Nehemiah asked the king of Persia if he could travel to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls something very scary was asked. “How much time do you need?” The king made it clear that he would let Nehemiah leave but that he expected him to return. Nehemiah had a very limited amount of time to rebuild the wall. Don’t give us the Time Excuse!!

Nehemiah arrived, inspected the walls, recruited workers and began building. A remarkable 52 days later the wall was complete.

**No More Excuses!**

God hasn’t talked to me

I don’t know how

I don’t have the time

Summertime – Acts 90

Warning… As you try to fix your broken world you will face opposition!

As Nehemiah and the few in Jerusalem began to fix their broken world, the surrounding tribes of the ammonites (the bad guys) got angry. It doesn’t make sense but it’s true – When you try to fix a broken world, to do good, some people will get angry. The ammonites showed up in force and surrounded the city.

Nehemiah had every right in the world to FREAK OUT. But he didn’t… He had a braveheart moment…

Nehemiah 4:13 (NIV)

**13**Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. **14**After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

**15**When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

**17**who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, **18**and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked.

Even when you are under attack you shouldn’t stop working. They carried their sword in one hand and their wall building materials in the other.

It’s time to get tough! It’s time to face the enemy.

**Let me tell you who your enemy is…** Whoever attempts to stop you from building the wall.

If you will face your enemy you will win. But the enemy will try another tactic..

Nehemiah 6

**2**Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages**[**[**a**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12404a)**]** on the plain of Ono. ”

But they were scheming to harm me; **3**so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” **4**Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

The enemy cannot defeat you in a fight… so he will try to distract you.

During the next 90 days, I guaranty, you will be invited to parties. I guaranty the party will fall on a day your youth group or college group is trying to do something.

Someone will try to pull you aside and tell you gossip and lies to stir up drama.

I guaranty that the enemy will try to distract you from building the wall.

Be like Nehemiah… “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down”

**We live in a broken world**

**Weep**

**Act: Fast and Pray**

**Stop our excuses**

**Fight the enemy**

**Don’t stop for anything**

**{Close}**

Remember that video of the girls that stole money from a girl scout? They represent the prevalent culture of this broken world. They are the norm. A strong majority.

We are outnumbered so the world thinks we are underdogs – but we aren’t. God plus 1 = a majority. God is for us who can be against us?

We would also be mistaken to view this broken world as the enemy. As despicable as those girls actions were – they aren’t the enemy – They are the broken world, the broken city!