

From this Moment...

The Wall

Sunday, June 15, 2008.

Have you ever been convicted to do something? An issue, a concern has so gripped your heart that you just had to act on it? In 445 BC in Jerusalem, the Israelite people were so touched by their encounter with the living God during the rebuilding of a wall, that they couldn't help but be moved to action. They couldn't help but worship Him. They couldn't help but stand in the heat of the day for 5-6 hours to listen to the scriptures being read. They couldn't help but repent of their sins and they couldn't help but be drawn back to Yahweh, the covenant God, to recommit to their relationship with Him and to take action in the areas that they have neglected. Revival came to Jerusalem in 445 B.C., God's glory was restored to the city through his people but, did it last? Join us for the message from Nehemiah Chapter 9 and 10, "*From this Moment*".

Read Nehemiah Chapter 9 verse 32 through to the end of chapter 10.

Questions for discussion:

1. Describe a time in your life when you have been so moved by something that you just couldn't help but take action. What stirred in you to act?
2. All throughout the bible, God establishes agreements with his people through covenants. At this time in history in Jerusalem in 445 B.C., God had kept His promises to His people but they had let their responsibilities go. Can you think of a situation where you have entered into a binding agreement with someone? What were some of the promises you made in that relationship? Discuss with your group the benefit and difficulty of keeping promises in any relationship.
3. Have you ever had an encounter with Jesus? Discuss with your group a significant time in your spiritual journey when you know that you have felt and sensed that Jesus was close by. How could you tell?
4. Have you heard the expression, "My heart just wasn't in it"? Have you ever committed to something and then soon realized that your heart really wasn't in it? What is the difference in your behaviour and actions when you are responding to something out of a heart commitment as opposed to a mind commitment? Discuss with your group how that played out throughout the history of the Old Testament people with God. Do we see a difference in the relationship between God and His people through Jesus in the New Testament?
5. Ephesians 5: 1-2 in the Message Translation of the bible says, "*Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that!!!*"

What does it mean to love like that in your world? With your family? Your neighbours? Your co workers? Your classmates?

Pray for one another as you seek to let God work in your life through this discussion of Nehemiah 9 and 10.