

# SERMON NOTES

July 13 & 14, 2024

## Would You Rather?: Discerning God's Call

1. God's Call is often \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Awareness of a seemingly \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nehemiah 1:1-3**

b. Conviction that somebody \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nehemiah 1:4-11**

c. Conviction that somebody \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nehemiah 2:1-8 a**

d. Awareness \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nehemiah 2:8 b**

e. Compelled to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ others to help.

**Nehemiah 2:11-18**

f. Resistance does not \_\_\_\_\_ you.

**Nehemiah 4:1-6; 6: 15-16**

2. Following Jesus includes discovering \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 2:10**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ begins when I \_\_\_\_\_ God's vision for my life.

# Life Steps

**Would You Rather?:** Discerning God's Call | July 13 & 14, 2024

## Monday

**Nehemiah 1:1-4**

**Reflect:** Nehemiah's brother made him aware of a dire problem. The gravity of the situation moved him to mourn, fast, and pray. What "broken things" do you see in the world that particularly break your heart? Circle the top two or three. For which people groups in the church do you most have compassion? Why? Circle one.

**Prayer:** Speak, God, I am listening. What is the "something" you want me to do?

## Tuesday

**Nehemiah 1:11 c – 2:10**

**Reflect:** When Nehemiah came to the conviction that he could not turn the other way, that "the somebody" was him, he took action by talking to the King about the problem and the support he needed to move forward. Which of the items you circled yesterday do you feel called to help remedy? Who are you going to tell about your conviction? How will you ask them to support and encourage you?

**Prayer:** God, I can't turn my head any longer. I now realize "the somebody" who has to do something is me. Help me, God. Use me, God.

## Wednesday

**Nehemiah 2:8b**

**Reflect:** Nehemiah went from fearing for his life when approaching the King to having everything he needed to complete the project. What causes you to hesitate from acting on your conviction to do something about the issues that weigh heavily on you? What would reassure you that God is calling you and is with you?

**Prayer:** God, make me aware of your presence by guiding me with your gracious hand.

## Thursday

**Nehemiah 2:11-18**

**Reflect:** Nehemiah realized he couldn't rebuild the walls himself, so he invited, equipped, and empowered the inhabitants of the decimated city to help him. What do you think was the impact of Nehemiah's invitation on their lives? With whom might you share your vision that would join you in the rebuilding effort?

**Prayer:** God, Use this rebuilding effort to not only mitigate the problem, but to rebuild the lives of those who will join the cause.

## Friday

**Nehemiah 4:1-23**

**Reflect:** Like Nehemiah, if you set your mind and heart on living God's vision for your life, on doing something in Jesus' name, you will face resistance. How did Nehemiah's adversaries try to dissuade their rebuilding efforts? How did Nehemiah and his "men" resist the resistance? When resistance comes, what will be your plan to not be discouraged and quit?

**Prayer:** God, give me the reassurance that you are in it with me and your rebuilding work will not be stopped.

## Saturday

**Nehemiah 5:1-19**

**Reflect:** In the midst of the rebuilding, Nehemiah was aware and angry (vs. 6) of other injustices and was compelled to be their advocate for relief. Revisit the issues you circled on Monday. Remind yourself why these particular issues trouble your heart.

**Prayer:** Merciful God, break my heart for what breaks your own.

## Sunday

**Ephesians 2:10**

**Reflect:** Read this statement from Paul slowly, several times. What do you sense God saying to you? What might God be calling you to do in this season of your life?

**Prayer:** God, make known your vision for my life, and then give me the courage and drive to pursue it.