

Sermon Discussion Questions | September 25, 2016

Sermon Series: Building the Church, Pastor Bob Hopper Nehemiah 2: 1-20

1. In what ways does Nehemiah evidence godly COURAGE in this passage?
2. Three kinds of courage are displayed in our text. Can you share a time in your life when you displayed the kind of courage described here? How did God enable you to do this, and what was the result?
 1. Courage to speak the truth (vs. 2-3).
 2. Courage to face the truth (vs. 17a)
 3. Courage to act upon the truth (vs. 17b)

NOTE: It has sometimes been said that the sign of a great leader is that they “see reality, name reality, and respond to reality.” Why is Nehemiah such a great leader?

3. How does the grace of the gospel empower us to inspect the broken walls and gates of our own lives with courage and candor? If I am unwilling to face hard truths about my own heart, what does that say about my understanding of or confidence in the gospel?
4. The word CONVERGENCE is used in this sermon (re: vs. 4-8a) to describe the wonderfully mysterious merger of God’s sovereignty and human responsibility (also stated as “spiritual” and “tactical”). What happens when these two realities are not in proper balance? Which one needs strengthened in your own life . . . in the life of Central?
5. There is a wonderful display of the COMMITMENT of God’s people to do the work that God was calling them to do (vs. 18). When you think about Central Presbyterian Church (its past, present, and future), can you say, ‘Let us rise up and build?’ In what ways is God moving and building? What areas of our ministry need more work? Do you delight to share in the work that remains?
6. Nehemiah displays a deep CONVICTION that God is at work in him and through him in this passage by using the phrase, The good hand of God was upon me (vs. 8, 18). In what ways do you believe the good hand of God is upon [you] personally, and also upon Central?
7. The phrase, the hand of God, is a powerful metaphor used throughout Scripture. Discuss each of the following usages:
 1. The good hand of God’s favor (Nehemiah 2:8, 18)
 2. The dreadful hand of God’s wrath (I Samuel 5:11, Hebrews 10:31)
 3. The heavy hand of God’s conviction (Psalm 32:4)
 4. The sovereign hand of God’s deliverance (Deuteronomy 5:15)
 5. The gracious hand of God’s gospel

1. the bloody cross (John 20:24-28)
 2. the empty tomb (Acts 2:32-33)
 3. the occupied throne (I Peter 3:22)
 4. The comforting hand of God's providence (I Peter 5:6-7).
8. Take time in prayer (private or small group) to thank God for His hand of favor upon you.