

Dr. John Johnson
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Finding Your “I can’t stand it any longer” Point

Pastor Johnson began a new series in the book of Nehemiah. This book is a journey into the personal world of Nehemiah who is on a pilgrimage with God. He is working in the government of Babylon as a wine taster for the king. He is a simple man who makes a significant impact in the history of his people (the Jews).

The book relates to us the way God was to use Nehemiah in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. Earlier, the Temple within these walls had been rebuilt by Zerubbabel (the head of the tribe of Judah) and Ezra (a scribe). Nehemiah was to become a “world changer” because of his personal vision for his people. We look today at how he grew into this type of person:

1. He faced up to the realities of his world, Nehemiah 1:3
2. He took in the pain of these realities, Nehemiah 1:4a
3. He let this be the seed of a holy vision for him, Nehemiah 1:4b (A deep, holy discontent began to build strength within his spirit which would drive him to God in prayer.)

Discussion Questions:

- If vision is “first of all ears,” Nehemiah hearing the sounds of despair and distress, and then sight, then what is it that you can be listening to and looking at to gain understanding into how God can use you?
- What is the pain you can “no longer stand” in the world around you but drives you to respond? What is your holy discontent?
- What action steps do you need to take to respond to it?
- How do you feel this piece of Nehemiah’s story can be applied to us as a church seeking to build a larger facility?