**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. March 22, 2020**

**From Brokenness To Compassionate Praying**

Nehemiah 1:1-11

**Key Truth:** Brokenness is the key to usefulness in God’s Kingdom. God will allow circumstances in our lives to overwhelm us, in order that we might humble ourselves and call upon Him in prayer.

**Nehemiah’s Heartbreaking News:**

1. Nehemiah had great concern for the Nation of Israel and the

 city of Jerusalem.

2. Nehemiah was broken over the circumstances that the people

 of Israel were experiencing.

3. Nehemiah was also broken over the sinful behavior of himself

 and the people of Israel.

4. He cried out to God who is the only one that could bring

 comfort, forgiveness, healing and restoration.

**What We Can Learn From Nehemiah’s Actions and Prayer:**

1. Before we can be successful in helping our Nation and city,

 we must first care enough to pray for our Nation and city.

2. When we are broken in spirit and contrite in heart then we

 are in a position to be greatly used by God. **Psalm 51:17**

 A. We must be broken of our independence from God.

 B. We must be broken over our sinful behaviors towards God.

 C. We must be broken, so that what is filling us gets replaced

 with the filling of the Holy Spirit.

3. The hope for our Nation and world is found in Jesus Christ

 alone.

 A. These dark times serve as an opportunity for the church to

 let the light of Jesus Christ shine forth. **Matthew 5:14-16**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Don’t embrace despair. Take your concerns and these uncertain times to the throne room of Jesus Christ. Ask God to break you, so that you might experience God’s greatest blessings in your life during these difficult times.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How has the news about our Nation, and world, affected how you pray?

Based on Nehemiah’s prayer (vv. 5-11), how should we be praying for the people around us? What should we be concerned about? What should we trust God for?

Read Philippians 1:27-30: To what extent does suffering by God’s people impact our prayer life? What steps can you take to improve it?

Why does praying that God would break you, scare you?

Read Matthew 16:24-27: What does taking up your cross personally mean to you?

Read PSALM 51:10-12: In these verses, David prays for spiritual renewal. Why is renewal important after forgiveness? How do David’s requests in these verses contribute to spiritual renewal?

Have you had a time when you lost the joy of your salvation? If so, what helped you find joy again? If you haven’t found joy again, what do you think you need from God?