



Nehemiah 1:1-4

A Vision Begins | September 8th - September 14th

Warm-up: We have visions for our lives even as children. What did you want to be when you “grew up?”

- Read **Nehemiah 1:1-4** aloud together. In this passage Nehemiah is deeply moved by the report he has received concerning Jerusalem. Take note of Nehemiah’s distress and reaction (v.4). Have you ever experienced a similar feeling? What were the circumstances?
 - What does this tell you about Nehemiah’s sensitivity to the things of God?
- Andy Stanley describes *visioneering* as a “clear mental picture of what could be, fueled by the conviction that it should be.”
 - What do you think is meant by clear mental picture? How can we discern between a good idea and a God ordained vision?
 - From where are we to derive our convictions? What is the significance between our relationship with God and the legitimacy of our convictions?
- Read **2 Samuel 7:1-13**. In this passage King David sets out to build a house for the Lord; that is, a temple. However, after initially receiving the Prophet Nathan’s blessing, David is stopped by God who forbids the construction of a temple, instead revealing His own plan for David’s everlasting “house” (kingdom).
 - What does this passage reveal about the importance of seeking the Lord’s counsel when considering God’s vision for your life?
 - David approached God with a relatively small thing, but God revealed a much greater vision. Do you believe that God would deal similarly with you? In what ways do we sometimes struggle to understand that God can and will do great things through us?
- Moses wandered the desert for 40 years after receiving the command to deliver Israel from Egypt. Likewise, Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for Isaac after being promised him by God.
 - There is undoubtedly a great temptation to demand immediate results from God. In many ways our culture demands it. In spite of this, what are some reasons that God would have us wait to receive His blessings?

Wrap-up: In closing, briefly share what you believe God’s vision *may* be for your life in this Fall season.