

Be Careful What You Pray For!

Nehemiah 1:1-4

Pastor Joshua Brooks

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you came across a story or a situation in the world that just broke your heart – and yet you felt helpless to really do anything about it. What was the situation?

BIG IDEA: Becoming an agent of transformation in the world begins with us allowing our hearts to be broken by the things that break the heart of God.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. What are the first three things that Nehemiah did when he got the news about the living conditions of his brothers and sisters back in Jerusalem? (v4)
- 2) What do you think your response would have been to getting this kind of report?
- 3) Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, used to pray, “Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.” Why is that a powerful (and dangerous) prayer to pray?
- 4) How do you think fasting and prayer affects our ability to participate with God in getting on the “solution side” of the problems in our world?
- 5) Is there someone or something in your sphere of influence (or the larger world) for which you would be willing to allow your heart to be broken? It might be someone in our church, someone in your family, someone in our community, or some situation on the other side of the world. But are there one or two specific people (or things) that you can identify for which you would be willing to invite the Holy Spirit to break your heart?
- 6) Would you be willing to commit to praying for these one or two people (or situations) during this series? If so, name the person; name the situation. Be specific.
- 7) If time allows, share with each other what you are committing to pray for during this series – and then spend a few minutes asking God to break your hearts for these people and situations.