

When Transformation Takes a Turn Toward Tragedy

Nehemiah 13

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you poured yourself into something – and as you did so, real progress began to be made. But then somewhere along the way, the whole thing came crashing down, and all the progress you thought you had made went out the window.

BIG IDEA: The measurement of my life is not the ongoing “success” of whatever I’ve poured my blood, sweat and tears into. The measurement of my life is my ongoing faithfulness to God – no matter how things turn out.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Nehemiah 13:4-11a. Why is Nehemiah so upset about what’s happening in Jerusalem? How would you have responded – if you were in Nehemiah’s shoes?
- 2) Read Nehemiah 13:11b-31. What does Nehemiah do each time he discovers another point of disobedience on the part of God’s people? How does this response compare to the way you respond to this kind of disappointing news?
- 3) Pastor Joshua made the point that Nehemiah’s response (in this final chapter) is his finest hour – because it demonstrates what it looks like to keep playing for an Audience of One – even when this incredible story of transformation (that he’s been a part of) takes a turn toward tragedy. What’s one place in your life where you need to be following Nehemiah’s example?
- 4) Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Spend some time praying for each other – asking God to give each one of you a ‘1 Corinthians 15:58 perspective’ in those situations where things aren’t turning out the way you had hoped.