

Nehemiah 9

Nehemiah 9:32-38

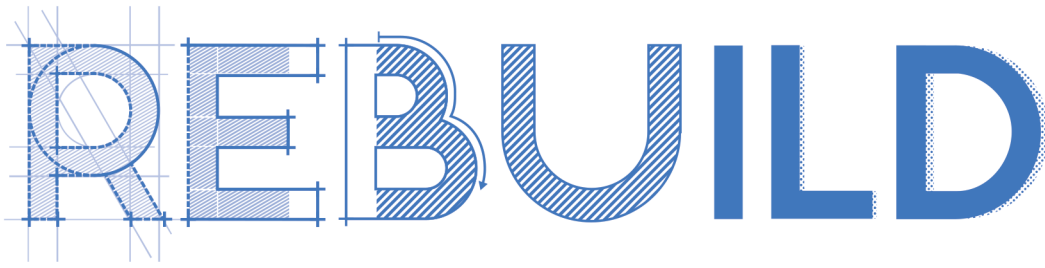
³²“Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. ³³Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. ³⁴Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them. ³⁵Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. ³⁶Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. ³⁷And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress. ³⁸“Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.

Background

When the people heard the Word of God read by Ezra (Nehemiah 8), they were encouraged to turn their weeping into rejoicing and celebrate the faithfulness of God. In chapter 9, the people of God in Jerusalem reflected on their troubled history, make confession for their sinfulness, and recommit themselves to following the ways of God. This week, Pastor Danny de Armas will explain how the prayer of the people reminds us that even if we run from the plans of God, we cannot outrun the heart of God.

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ Allow time for any new members to introduce themselves. What stood out to you in this week’s message? What challenged you? What prompted questions? How has God been faithful to you this week? How can we pray for you?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 9:1-5.** What can we learn about the way the people of God gathered and confessed their sins? What stands out? Why do you believe confession (acknowledging how we have fallen short of God’s standard) and repentance is important in the life of the believer? In what ways does God grow us spiritually through confession and repentance?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 9:16-21.** How do the people describe God’s characteristics and actions in their prayer? Why is it so important to remember who God is and how He relates to us when we are confessing (and turning away) from sinful behaviors? Which description of God captures your attention the most? Why?
- ▼ **Read 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16.** What do these passages teach us about the significance of confession/repentance and the overwhelming love and mercy of God?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 10:30-39.** Repentance is always linked to obedience. What did the people of God commit to do in regard to their marriages (10:30), how they spent their time (10:31), and how they spent their money (10:32-39)? Which one of these areas in your life needs to be impacted through repentance and change?

Live it Out

- ▼ What is one specific way God has been faithful to you so far this year that can produces thankfulness in your life?