

REVIEW: GIVING CHANGES LIVES

John 6:5 - 13

1. GOD OFTEN USES UNLIKELY PEOPLE TO GIVE LIFE

John 6:9 - "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

2. GOD TAKES WHAT WE OFFER AND MULTIPLIES IT

John 6:11 - Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.

Isaiah 10:15 - But can the ax boast greater power than the person who uses it?

Is the saw greater than the person who saws?

Can a rod strike unless a hand moves it?

Can a wooden cane walk by itself?

3. YOUR GIFT WILL CHANGE YOUR SPIRITUAL STATUS

- THE BOY WENT FROM BEING AN UNKNOWN TO BEING THE FRIEND OF THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. HIS GENEROSITY SAVED THE SAVIOR'S REPUTATION.**

Mark 12:41 - Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts 42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. 43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. 44 For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

TODAY'S MESSAGE: LEADERS LIVE FOR OTHERS

Nehemiah 1:1, 2-4, 11

Nehemiah 1 - Nehemiah's Concern for Jerusalem

In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa.² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

11 O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.

1. WHAT FLOWS TO YOU IS DETERMINED BY WHAT FLOWS THROUGH YOU!

NEHEMIAH NEVER LACKS FOR ANYTHING

- Living in the **KINGS COURT**

NEHEMIAH DIDN'T NEED THINGS CAUSE HE HAD THE KING

- **RELATIONSHIPS MATTER** more than anything!

NEHEMIAH IS THE PEOPLE'S GO TO GUY

- **Stop Complaining** because everyone in the family comes to you!
- You want to be seen as the **SOURCE**

2. WHAT YOU PRAY REVEALS WHERE YOUR HEART IS!

4 When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

2 Chronicles 1:7 - That night God appeared to Solomon and said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

2 Chronicles 1:10 - Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?"

- **NEHEMIAH PRAYED FOR THE PROVISION OF THE CITY NOT SELF**
- **NEHEMIAH HAD A HEART FOR THEM**

3. WHAT YOU RECEIVE IS DETERMINED BY STEWARDSHIP, MOTIVATION AND LEADERSHIP!

- **STEWARDSHIP = HOW WELL YOU MANAGE WHAT YOU HAVE**
- **MOTIVATION = WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO**
- **LEADERSHIP = INFLUENCE**
- **GOD IS NOT MOVED BY YOUR NEEDS FIRST!**

Philippians 4:19 - *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

