

17 December 2017: Preached by Preacher James Tan

Topic: God's Man for God's Work

Scripture text: Nehemiah 1:1-11

1. A man of God will have the burden to serve God with all his heart. Nehemiah was the Babylonian king's cupbearer and was geographically distant from Jerusalem. Yet, he had a burden for God's glory and the spiritual witness of Israel when he learnt that there was great affliction and reproach both spiritually and physically. Likewise, all of God's servants must be collectively active and concerned for God's work, be empathetic towards God's people and ever striving to grow in our service for Him.
2. Our fears should not hinder us in serving God because whom He commissions, He will surely prepare. God prepared Nehemiah's heart to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Although he served an earthly king, his allegiance was towards his true Heavenly Master, the God of heaven. We have a burden for God's kingdom because of our love for Him. Let us therefore remain prayerful and trust in God's enabling as we labour for Him.
3. Every member of the body of Christ has a responsibility in the work of the Lord. We rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Nehemiah understood that the people of Israel were under the chastisement of God because of the sins of their forefathers. Likewise, the church ought to bear each other's burdens and love one another with Christ's sanctifying and sacrificial love.
4. A man of God will pray for the servants of God to have a common desire to serve Him in fear and by God's mercies, to prosper His work through them.