



# ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA  
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## **SERMON STUDY & DISCUSSION OUTLINE**

### **God's Calling & Vision Series (Nehemiah):**

- #1 – If God is calling us to do something important in SJ, how do we begin?
- #2 – Why should I care about what God is calling us to do?
- #3 – How do we keep on “doing” church when things are not going great?
- #4 – How can we keep on being passionate?
- #5 – Remaining faithful when we don't feel it

## **10.31.2021 – Why should I care about what God is calling me/St James to do?**

### **Vision of the future for SJPC**

A revitalized St. James Presbyterian Church whose leadership and congregation are Gospel-grounded, missionally active, and growing.

- **Gospel grounded – we are a church, a group of people saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-10) who died and resurrected for the forgiveness of our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-19; Ephesians 1:6-7). We exist to affirm and live out God's Word, grace, and mercy in us (Colossians 1:9-14).**
- **Missionally active – we are called by God to spread the Gospel through words and deeds, with Christlike love, and to make disciples as we go in our daily life. (Philippians 1:3-6, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)**
- **Growing – as we continue to be faithful and obedient to what God is calling us to be and to do, we will grow strong spiritually and will be blessed by God in numbers. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-25, Acts 2:38-41, 2 Peter 1:3-11)**

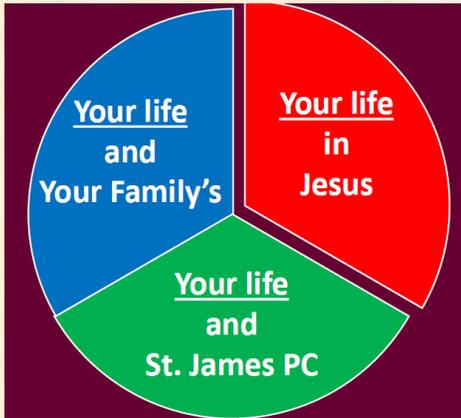
### **How did Nehemiah begin rebuilding the ruined walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:1-10)**

- Cared, cried, confessed, asked God's help
- Used his God-given gifts, connections, resources
- Inspected/analyzed the walls (problem) then planned
- To the people, he explained their trouble/disgrace, assured them of God's call, and help
- The people's response: they committed to rebuild (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

**Remember, the people in Jerusalem were in disgrace which after 52 days changed dramatically...**  
**Nehemiah 6:15-16**

### **For us today, what are we rebuilding?**

*(see graphic on next page) Your life, your family and your church – in Jesus!*



**To rebuild your life and St. James, how must you begin?**

- Confess, ask forgiveness, ask God's help
- Know your spiritual health, work on it
- Know your God-given gifts, develop, use
- Start caring for what God is calling you to be and to do

**Today, St. James needs people to...**

- Pray, pray, pray
- Invite, Invite, Invite
- Start planning community outreach activities: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year
- Invite, organize, and motivate the men!
- Play piano, guitar, etc.
- Invite, organize, and motivate the men!
- Tech for our live/recorded worship videos

**When we see St. James becoming the church God calls us to be and to do...**

- Always remember this: you and your family matter to God. God loves you!
- Little by little, we will see God's miracles in our lives
- God's purpose is to show His grace, mercy and power through you and the church
- **THIS IS WHY WE ALL SHOULD CARE**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. **Why do you think Nehemiah responded the way he did when he learned about the destruction and disgrace in Jerusalem? What does this say about his faith in God and love for his people?**
2. **Nehemiah left the comforts of his position and life in the royal palace of King Artaxerxes. What made him decide to do this?**
3. **Nehemiah is said to be a passionate as well as smart and resourceful leader. Why? What did he do?**
4. **Before meeting and discussing the situation with the people living in Jerusalem, what did he do? Why?**

5. **What made the people of Jerusalem follow what Nehemiah told them to do? That is, to rebuild the walls. Knowing that he is not a longtime resident in Jerusalem and a comfortable influential person in King Artaxerxes' kingdom, why did they follow him?**
6. **What strong reasons are there why rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was very important?**
7. **So far in our study of Nehemiah 1-2, what lessons do you see that are relevant to your personal life and to our church situation?**
8. **How do you see yourself in the story? If you were there with Nehemiah, what role do you see yourself doing?**