

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 13/03/2022

Text(s): Nehemiah

Sermon Title: Great

Preacher: Rev Collin See

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Nehemiah 1:1–11 (NLT)

1 These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. 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.

5 Then I said, "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands,

6 listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!

7 We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

8 "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations.

9 But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'

10 "The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants.

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.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. The walls of Jerusalem had been broken down and the gates burnt with fire. Jerusalem went through a time of great trouble and disgrace. Have you gone through a time of great trouble and disgrace before, whether on your own as an individual or together with others in a company? What is your evaluation of that experience?**
- 2. In Nehemiah 1:7 we see Nehemiah repenting for his sins and the sins of the city. Was it necessary for Nehemiah to repent for the city when he was not even born yet when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians? What can we gain by repenting for something that was done or happened more than 100 years ago or for sins that we did not participate in personally or directly?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. In the book of Ezra we read about how the enemies of God's people pretended to want to help with the rebuilding of the walls, but their real intention was to disrupt the work through discouragement and fear (see Ezra 4:1–5). Do you recognize this pattern in your life, of the enemy coming to trouble you with discouragement and fear when you tried to make progress in your spiritual life, marriage or career?**
- 2. On the outside, it appeared that the Jews would continue to remain in exile even though Persia had overthrown Babylon. But on the inside, God was stirring the heart of king Cyrus to release His people (see Ezra 1:1). God's mighty hand was at work to fulfil the promises He made to His people. Is there an area where you need the mighty hand of God to work for you? How do you think you can pray in this area?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to be strengthened by God's Word and Spirit so that we are able to overcome all the attacks of the enemy, including discouragement and fear.
- Pray for our church to be a people who are full of faith in God and in His power, trusting in His mercy and grace demonstrated through the works of His mighty hand.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and to stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.