

The Good Work

David Quaid

I. Intro

- A. Nehemiah 1:2-3 (NLT) ²Hanani, 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. ³They 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."

II. Starting the Good Work

- A. Ask God to _____ your heart
1. Nehemiah 1:4a (NLT) *When I heard this, I sat down and wept.*
 2. "God, break ____ heart for what breaks _____."
- B. _____ for God to _____ you
1. Nehemiah 1:4b (NLT) *In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.*
 - a. "If it's big enough to cry about, it's big enough to pray about."
 2. Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT) *"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."*
 - a. What you _____ about reveals what you really _____ about God.

C. _____ to the Good Work

1. Nehemiah 2:4-5 (NLT) ⁴The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, ⁵I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."
2. Nehemiah 2:16-18 (NLT) ¹⁶The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. ¹⁷But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" ¹⁸Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

III. Conclusion

- A. Matthew 9:36-38 (NIV) ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."