

## Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 1:1-11 (June 17, 2026)

*—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—*

1. How does Nehemiah's position as cupbearer to the king demonstrate God's strategic placement of His people, and where might God have strategically placed you in your current circumstances?
2. Nehemiah's first response to bad news was to weep, mourn, fast, and pray for days. How does this contrast with our typical modern responses to distressing news, and what might we learn from his approach?
3. In his prayer, Nehemiah confesses not only the sins of the people but also his own sins and those of his father's house. Why is personal confession important even when praying about communal or national issues?
4. The sermon emphasizes waiting on the Lord before taking action, even when our hearts scream to do something immediately. Can you share a time when waiting on God's timing proved crucial, or when acting too quickly led to problems?
5. Nehemiah reminds God of both His warnings and His promises. What does this tell us about the nature of prayer and our relationship with God when we bring His own words back to Him?
6. The message states that if prayer is not a habit in your life, you might need to check your relationship with the Lord. How would you honestly assess your prayer life, and what obstacles prevent you from developing a consistent prayer habit?
7. God used a foreign, pagan king to accomplish His purposes for His people. How does this challenge our assumptions about how and through whom God works in the world today?
8. Nehemiah was deeply moved by the shame and trouble of people far away in his homeland. What distant or overlooked situations might God be stirring your heart toward, and how should you respond?
9. The sermon describes three types of prayer: meditative, spontaneous, and periodic. Which of these comes most naturally to you, and which requires more intentional development in your spiritual life?
10. Nehemiah's prayer was both reverent and bold, confessing sin while also asking God for success and mercy. How can we balance humility and confidence when approaching God with our requests?