

When the Report Breaks Your Heart: Nehemiah 1 and the Gospel of Justice

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I. A Gospel Big Enough to Inquire

Nehemiah 1:1–3

Nehemiah asked about the people and the city. Justice begins when pastors ask honest questions about the condition of the people they are called to serve.

II. A Gospel Big Enough to Identify

Nehemiah 1:4

Nehemiah did not remain detached from the suffering he heard about. The report moved from his ears to his heart. Biblical ministry requires compassion, identification, and holy grief.

III. A Gospel Big Enough to Intercede

Nehemiah 1:5–10

Nehemiah prayed with worship, confession, covenant memory, and petition. His prayer shows that justice work must be rooted in dependence on God and honest confession before God.

IV. A Gospel Big Enough to Get Involved

Nehemiah 1:11

Nehemiah's prayer prepared him for action. The gospel does not call pastors to observe broken walls from a distance, but to move toward them with courage and faith.

V. Jesus, the Greater Nehemiah

Christ saw our condition, identified with our humanity, interceded for us, and involved Himself fully in our redemption. The cross is not an escape from justice; it is God's ultimate confrontation with sin, evil, suffering, and death.