



RE:OLUTION.

being a solution is better than a resolution.
A 4-part churchwide sermon series | 6/7 Jan 2018 - 27/28 Jan 2018



PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

December usually puts most of us in the mood for giving, because of the message of Christmas. However, the general attitude seems to shift to a complete opposite the moment the new year comes around, when everyone deviates from being others-centric to becoming self-centric, where resolutions are made for the sake of self-improvement.

While it's not wrong to want to better ourselves, how can we continue to keep the attitude of being others-centric throughout the year, rather than reserving this only for the Christmas season? This year, can we create slightly different new year resolutions by choosing to be a solution to our schools, families, workplaces, and parts of our world?

We follow the book of Nehemiah during this series, and discover what it means to be a person that brings a solution to the problems in the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

It is likely that Nehemiah would have never set foot in Jerusalem in his life, and is very far removed from this place in both history and geography. However, he was deeply affected about its ruined state.

1. What is our usual response when we learn about bad news and tragedies that go on in other parts of the world?

We find Nehemiah's response to the problem in Nehemiah 2:5.

...and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

2. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.

i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.

ii. Read the passage aloud.

iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:

- What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
- Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
- What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?

iv. Some observation questions of the passage:

- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
- What is the main point or points?
- What surprises are there?
- What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?

v. Some leading questions of the text:

- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
- How does the passage relate to Jesus?
- What does this teach us about God?
- How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?

vi. Some application questions of the passage:

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude I need to change?
- How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

3. What are some things that get in the way of you being a solution to your world? How can you overcome these obstacles? How can this group support you?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Pray: "Lord, make it my resolution to become a person who brings your solution. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Ask God to reveal what it means to bring a solution to the world - whether it's at home in your family, or in a different nation.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

...and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it." - Nehemiah 2:5