



Quick Review from Last Weekend

The story of King Asa (2 Chronicles 14-16)

- Asa was the king of Judah, the Southern Kingdom
- In the beginning, he had a heart beating with Holy Ambition
- Near the end, Asa lost his Holy Ambition and failed as a leader
- God sent a prophet to confront King Asa

The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT)

What We Learned

- Holy Ambition is not a permanent condition
- Holy Ambition cannot live off the faith of the past
- Past success is no guarantee of future faithfulness

The first condition in developing Holy Ambition is **A DISLOCATED HEART**

The Premise is this:

A dislocated heart is the foundation God uses
for accomplishing His will through you

Nehemiah 1:1-4 (NLT)

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.

Nehemiah's situation

- In 586 BC, the Babylonian army invaded Judah. The city of Jerusalem was in ruins, the Temple of God was destroyed, and most of the people of Judah were taken by force to live as exiles in Babylon.

- 150 years passed. A few Jews had been allowed to return to reestablish and rebuild Jerusalem, but most Jews stayed in Babylon.
- Nehemiah, a Jewish exile, was living in the palace of the Babylonian king. He was the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes.
- He was living the good life – fine food, great living conditions and economic security.
- His brother, Hanani, and some others came from Jerusalem to visit Nehemiah and gave him news that broke his heart.
- The news: The Jews who had survived the exile and returned to Jerusalem were suffering.
- Nehemiah responded with a dislocated heart.

What is a dislocated heart?

It is a God-given concern for others that propels us out of our comfort zone. It is a passionate concern for God's people and God's agenda that supersedes our own personal comfort and prosperity.

What Does A Dislocated Heart Look Like?

- Paul

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ² My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³ for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. Romans 9:1-3 (NLT)

- Jesus

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

Thank God for the people of Christ Church with dislocated hearts. May He continue to give us an epidemic of dislocated hearts and fill us with Holy Ambition.