

appnotes

DAY 1 READ NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

1

What need breaks your heart? Does the plight of orphans fill you with compassion? Are you the first in line to provide disaster relief? Perhaps, you desire to help people who are struggling with their finances or their relationships. For Nehemiah, it was the devastation of his nation's capital and the disgrace of his people that made his heart heavy. Nehemiah was so deeply affected by the need that he spent days mourning, fasting, and praying. But, he didn't just feel bad, he did something about it. He realized that whatever God had given him—administration skills, a particular job, the burden—was part of God's plan to do something greater with his life. What need breaks your heart? What has God given you to do something about it? Start with prayer. Then go do something.

DAY 2 MATTHEW 9:35-38

2

Every person in California is being asked to sacrifice because of the drought. In many cases, farmers can only harvest half of what they normally harvest. Think about how painful it must be to look out at the fields and realize you are limited to only bringing in half of it. The problem is not with what you could bring in, but with the water limitations. Jesus said something surprising in today's passage, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." He was saying that many are close to crossing the line of faith. The problem is not with the people, but with the worker limitations. We need everyone, to reach every one. Would you pray for more hands to help? What can you do?

DAY 3 LUKE 15:8-10

3

What do you lose most often? Is it the car keys, your wallet, or your kids? I'm always losing the reason I walked into a room. Am I the only one? Jesus tells a story using things we understand to help us understand something new. We've all lost something! Here is a woman who has lost a valuable coin. So she does whatever it takes to find it again. When she finds it, she throws a party. She wants everyone to share in the joy she has at finding what she lost. The most valuable thing to God is the soul of a person. At the cross, He proved that He would do whatever it takes to recover what was lost. And God throws a party when even one sinner is saved.

DAY **MATTHEW 5:14-16**

4

Have you ever had some big shoes to fill? Maybe you got a promotion after the company's top employee retired. Let's take it up a notch. What if the president of the United States stepped down and gave the job to you? Overwhelmed yet? When Jesus Christ walked among us He was the light of the world (John 8:12). But He passed on that role to His followers before He left. Being the president sounds easier than doing God's job, right? Jesus revealed God in a special way to the world. Now that's our job. The good things we do show the world what our God is like. Choosing to give instead of take, love instead of judge, and listen instead of talk are all ways that we help others know the character of our God.

DAY **JONAH 4:1-11**

5

When it comes to revealing our hearts, our receipts and our calendars don't lie. Where does your money go? How do you spend your time? I would have to say that I treasure comfort and entertainment too much. What about you? We are not the only ones. Jonah knew that God was gracious and compassionate and would forgive Israel's worst enemies. He didn't want that to happen. So God brought some circumstances to show him something important. Jonah liked it when God provided a plant that brought shade. He got upset when God provided a worm to take it away. Jonah's dramatic response revealed that he cared more about his comfort than the lives of over 120,000 people. There are almost five times that many people in our little corner of the world. What are you willing to sacrifice so that they could know the Savior?

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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