

April 8, 2018
HOMETOWN
Part 1: Seeing the Needs of People
Ted Cunningham

1. Have you ever had a burden like Nehemiah had for Jerusalem? What was the outcome?
2. Two attitude examples (one light hearted), one heart example: (1) A lady from Branson wrote to a friend and mentioned something crazy she'd seen on the strip. She said, "Only in Branson." (2) Maybe you've heard this statement about a town you know of: "Armpit of America." (3) Or on a positive note, a pastor's wife was advised that wherever God took them, they should embrace the place, "Love your home." Do you have a hometown "heart" or a hometown "attitude"?
3. When Nehemiah heard about the condition of Jerusalem, he "sat down and wept." What have you sat down and wept for (1:4)?
4. Also for days Nehemiah "mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." John Piper believes that "fasting is an intensifier of spiritual desire." Have you ever fasted? If so, would you say it intensified your spiritual desire? What else did you experience during your fast? Would you be open to fasting?
5. Do you feel called to do something for the community, even if it's only one person?
6. What are the five components of helping Ted listed? (**Need, Burden, Vision, Plan, Commitment**) How have you see these components played out in big and small ways? Can you also serve by committing yourself to someone else's vision and plan?
7. Read Nehemiah's Prayer in Nehemiah 1:5-11. List the components of the prayer and say which of them we can adopt as we pray for needs we might meet in our community.
8. Are you good at confessing your sin? Take a minute to think about what you need to confess to God. If you're comfortable with it, share that confession with your group.
9. What are the four ways we tend to we respond to any great work that needs to be done? (**(a) Overwhelmed and do nothing, (b) inspired, but do nothing, (c) inspired, get started but don't finish, (d) inspired and get the job done.**)
10. After Nehemiah prayed, the king gave him a leave from being his cupbearer, as well as additional help, so Nehemiah could lead in the rebuilding of the walls and gates of Jerusalem. What have people you know given up to make a difference for someone? What are we willing to give up?
11. What were the two recommendations Ted left us with? (**1. Become a student of our hometown, 2. Ask the Lord for a way to serve our hometown.**)