

SERMON SERIES: GET IN THE GAME

Sermon Title: Do Something About it

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:17-18

September 4, 2022

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Warnock's message focused on "getting engaged and staying involved." He said too often we stay on the side lines, waiting for something to happen instead of getting engaged in the work of making it happen. By remaining as spectators, we become increasingly passive, underestimating our own capacity, power and potential to make a difference. Many people are able to name the problem but few are willing to own the problem. We often hear people ask, when are "they" are going to do something –about crime, our school systems, etc.? However, after surveying the land, Pastor Warnock's report is, "they" have never shown up – to change anything, fix anything or do anything. "They" are missing in action. But we are the "they" they've been waiting on.

Nehemiah was cup-bearer to the king. He had a good job, associated with important people, had a good car, and was living well. He was cup-bearer to the king. But Nehemiah never forgot where he came from. He never forgot his story or the people who helped him get where he was now. The city where most people lived was in trouble. Their world was in disrepair. That troubled Nehemiah and so he did something about it.

We all bear responsibility for the world in which we have found ourselves, so it is our obligation to get in the game. Nehemiah understood that so he got in the game rebuilt the wall and restored the city and dedicated it to the glory of God.

We've got some brokenness in our world and instead of cussing, fussing and complaining about it we need to do something about it. Our job is to discern what God wants us to do in our corner of the world with the influence that we have. God has given everybody some gifts, everybody some talents. There is genius on all sides of the track. If you look long enough and hard enough you'll discover the genius that lives inside of you.

HOW DID NEHEMIA MANAGE TO REPAIR THE WALL?

1. **He decided that he COULD** – greatness begins with a decision. At some point you have to make up your own mind. It doesn't really matter if you think you can or you can't. Either way you're right.
2. **He discerned that he SHOULD** –it's one thing to decide that you could do something; it's another thing to discern that you should do something.
3. **He determined that he WOULD** – the one who is the Savior is the GOAT. He lost the game but he won the championship. So you ought to get in the game and act like you've already won. Get off the sidelines and get in the game. Immerse yourself!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What have you been sitting on the sidelines about rather than getting involved? Why?
2. What would it take to get you involved?
3. What spiritual gifts and/or talents do you have that you've used to help you get involved in the past?
4. What could you do to convince someone else to get involved in being an active rather than a passive Christian, getting involved in God's work?