

CONNECT WITH THE MESSAGE

Nehemiah 2 – Underhand Tactics

1) How would you personally describe an ideal church?

Read Nehemiah 2 v1-20

2) If you had to summarise Rich's message in one sentence what would you say?

3) Read **Ephesians 5 v22-33**

a) i) What subject is Paul mainly talking about here?

ii) Why do you think he includes the subject of Christ and the church?

iii) What does this passage tell us about the importance of the church to Jesus?

iv) What does it say Jesus has done for his church? What does this actually mean?

v) What does it say Jesus is doing for his church? In what actual ways do you think he does this today?

b) Read **Psalms 137**. This was written while the Jews were in exile in Babylon. Mount Zion is the hill Jerusalem is built on and is often used as a synonym for the city of Jerusalem as God's dwelling place.

i) What event is this psalm remembering?

ii) What reasons does the psalm give for such sadness?

iii) What do you think is the connection between Jerusalem in the old testament and the church in the new testament? Why?

iv) How do you think Jesus makes Jerusalem his 'highest joy'?

v) What would it mean for you personally to do that?

vi) How do we understand the shocking end to this psalm (verses 8 and 9) in light of Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read **Isaiah 52 v1-12**

- a) What references are there in this passage to the Jewish exile?
- b) In what ways is the return from exile pictured as a second exodus?
- c) How is Jerusalem called to respond to what God is doing?
- d) Who is described as being responsible for the return from exile? How does this tie in with what we have seen in the Nehemiah message so far?
- e) How completely do you think the future hope described in this passage was fulfilled in the return to Jerusalem?
- f) How do you think we should understand this passage in light of the gospel and new covenant?
- g) What response does Jesus' greater fulfillment of this passage demand from us?
- h) How will this passage affect your thinking, worship and behaviour this week?

CONNECT IN PRAYER

There is a **Gift Day** on **Sunday 30th March**. Please begin to think and pray about what God is calling you to give.

Please pray for the team going to **Lesotho** next week. They have a busy 10 days!

CONNECT WITH CHURCH LIFE

The **Exploring Membership Day** is on **Saturday 15th March**. If you are thinking of joining the church this is great chance to chat to the Elders and find out what God is doing here at King's Church.

There is another **Quiz Night** coming up on **Saturday 22nd March**. Put it in your diary!