



Surprised By the Call of God

February 2, 2020

Surprises...A Way of Life!

Nehemiah's [Surprising Story!](#) (Nehemiah 1:1-4)

Nehemiah 1:1-4

¹ *The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:*

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³ *They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."*

⁴ *When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*

Nehemiah was a prisoner of war...a stranger in a strange land

Nehemiah was a servant to the king (Artaxerxes)

Nehemiah 1:11

¹¹ *I was cupbearer to the king.*

Nehemiah was called (Heard, Felt, Prayed, Called)

Nehemiah 2:1-4

¹ *In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before,*
² *so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."*

I was very much afraid, ³ *but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"*

⁴ *The king said to me, "What is it you want?"*

Nehemiah's **Surprises**...

- Surprised by God's **timing** (not planned by me)
- Surprised by the **magnitude** (bigger than me)
- Surprised by **emotions** (God captures our heart)
- Surprised by the **length of the journey** (massive investment)
- Surprised by the **cost of the calling** (all of me)

Lessons from Nehemiah

1. Pay attention...even to problems!
2. Think in terms of God's power and not my limitations
3. Take note of your emotions
4. Hang in there
5. Remember that sacrifice is a big part of becoming more like Jesus