



The Good Hand of God

INTRODUCTION: Are you ready for God to answer your prayers? Are you ready for God's hand to move in your life? Most would say they are completely ready for these things, but wanting them doesn't mean that one is actually ready to receive them. How can we be ready for God's answer to our prayers? From the life of Nehemiah, we learn five key marks of the person who is ready to receive God's answer. We pray that you will be encouraged and blessed as you listen today.

READ: Nehemiah 1:11-2:8

DISCUSSION:

1. Can you recall a time where you had to wait for something that turned out better than expected because you waited?
2. Nehemiah clearly prayed to God for provision for the Jews in Judah, but he also willingly offered himself as part of the solution. Why is it important that we make ourselves willing to be a part of the answer to our prayers? How should this impact the way we pray?
3. How do your current actions show that you, too, are willing to make sacrifices to see God's will accomplished? Is there anything specific that God is leading you to do?
4. Why is it difficult for us to wait on the Lord? How does our culture impact our perspective?
5. How long did Nehemiah have to wait on the Lord? What did he do during his waiting? What do you think the Lord was doing during this time?
6. As a group, read Psalm 40:1-3 and answer the following questions:
 - What did the Lord do when David waited on Him?
 - How did this impact others in his life?
7. What does God promise in Isaiah 40:31 to those who wait on Him? How does this encourage you today?
8. In your own words, what does it mean to watch for God? What are some of the indicators that you look for to see how and where God is working? How did Nehemiah discern God's work?
9. When given the opportunity, what all did Nehemiah ask of King Artaxerxes? What does this teach us about him? What does this reveal about his actions while waiting? How should this example impact us?
10. In what ways is our approaching God and asking of Him similar to the way Nehemiah approached the king? How is it different?
11. How did God work on Nehemiah's behalf? As a result, how did Nehemiah respond to God's kindness towards him?

MAKE IT SO: Commit to a worshipful attitude towards the Lord as you wait on Him in areas of prayer request that have not been answered. Be willing to wait on God!

READING LIST: **Monday:** Exodus 14:1-14 / **Tuesday:** Exodus 14:15-31 / **Wednesday:** Psalm 25:1-11 / **Thursday:** Psalm 25:12-22 / **Friday:** Psalm 27:4-14 / **Saturday:** Psalm 40:1-8 / **Sunday:** Isaiah 40:21-31