

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Dare To Make A Difference

OVERVIEW

This five-day devotional will help you respond to God's Spirit-given "holy discontent" with the same pathway we see in Jesus and Nehemiah: honest grief, deep prayer, humble repentance, wise planning, and courageous action. Each day invites you to rebuild what's broken—first in your heart, then in your relationships, church, and community—so God's kingdom can be seen more clearly where you live.

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TO VIEW THE SERMON



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01 **Luke 19:41-44**

02 **Nehemiah 1:4-6**

03 **1 John 1:9**

04 **Nehemiah 2:7-8**

05 **Nehemiah 2:16-18**

DAY 1

LUKE 19:41-44

Jesus' tears over Jerusalem remind us that spiritual urgency is real. He wasn't moved by inconvenience or personal offense; He was moved by love and by what was being lost when people missed their "opportunity for salvation." Holy discontent begins here—not with annoyance, but with Spirit-shaped sorrow for what's broken and for the peace God desires to give.

In the sermon, we heard that God often uses news, encounters, or a firsthand glimpse of pain to awaken us. If you've felt that ache—about your own spiritual life, your family, your church, or your community—don't rush past it. Ask God to purify that burden so it becomes compassion instead of cynicism, and intercession instead of complaint.

Holy discontent is a gift because it refuses to let us settle for less than God's preferable future. Today, let Jesus' tears teach you how to hold grief and hope together: grief over what is, and hope in what God can rebuild when we turn to Him.

- Where do you sense grief or concern that feels deeper than normal frustration—something that might be God's invitation to pray?
- What "peace" might be hidden from your eyes right now because of distraction, busyness, or spiritual numbness?
- Name one area (personal, church, community) where you've been tempted to accept "this is just how it is."
- Pray simply: "Jesus, teach me to see what You see and feel what You feel—without losing hope."
- What is one small act of compassion you can do today that aligns your heart with God's love for people?

DAY 2

NEHEMIAH 1:4-6

When Nehemiah heard how bad things were in Jerusalem, he didn't jump straight into solutions. He sat down, wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed. The sermon highlighted this as the first movement of leadership and renewal: turn to God as Lord, not as a last-resort helper. Prayer is not avoidance; it's alignment.

Nehemiah's prayer also shows that spiritual rebuilding starts with communion before strategy. He addresses God's greatness, remembers God's covenant love, and then prays "night and day." That kind of prayer doesn't come from pressure to perform; it comes from a heart that knows the problem is bigger than human strength and the mission is bigger than personal comfort.

If you want to "dare to make a difference," begin where Nehemiah began: make time. Not because God is hard to reach, but because our hearts are. Today is about choosing God as your first response, so your actions later flow from dependence rather than drivenness.

- What is your most common first response when you feel burdened—fixing, distracting, blaming, or praying?
- When can you realistically set aside an intentional block of time this week for focused prayer (even 15–30 minutes)?
- Write a one-sentence version of your burden (for yourself, church, or community) that you can carry into prayer daily.
- Try one practice today: pray before you send messages, make decisions, or start a task—invite God into ordinary moments.
- Ask: "Lord, make me a person of prayer before you make me a person of impact." What changes if God answers that?

DAY 3

1 JOHN 1:9

Holy discontent becomes holy action when it is joined with humility. In the sermon, Nehemiah's lack of pride stood out: he confessed the sins of the people and included himself—"even my own family and I have sinned." Repentance isn't self-hatred; it's truth-telling that opens the door for cleansing, freedom, and renewed strength.

Confession also protects us from the trap of wanting renewal "out there" while ignoring what God wants to rebuild "in here." It's easy to feel burdened for a city, a church, or a nation and still resist the difficult paths of surrender in our own lives. But God's kingdom advances most powerfully through clean hands and a softened heart.

Today, let God's promise steady you: when we confess, He is faithful to forgive and to cleanse. Repentance is not the end of the story; it's the beginning of renewal. The goal isn't to wallow—it's to be restored so you can love well in the real battle.

- Is there a specific sin, pattern, or compromise you've been minimizing that God is bringing to mind gently but clearly?
- Where have you been more passionate about others changing than about your own obedience?
- Take five minutes for silent confession, then thank God out loud for forgiveness and cleansing.
- What relationship might need a repair step (apology, honesty, accountability) as fruit of repentance?
- Choose one concrete "turn" for the next 24 hours: something you will stop, and something you will start, to walk in the light.

DAY 4

NEHEMIAH 2:7-8

After months of prayer and inner work, Nehemiah moved toward wise planning. He didn't confuse faith with vagueness; he asked for what was needed—letters, protection, and materials. The sermon emphasized this rhythm: pray, plan, then proceed. God's favor doesn't cancel preparation; it often flows through it. Planning with God is different than controlling outcomes. Nehemiah couldn't guarantee safety, speed, or universal approval, but he could clarify the mission, count the cost, and ask boldly. When the king asked, "How can I help you?" Nehemiah was ready—not because he was self-sufficient, but because he had been with God long enough to form a faithful next step.

If you're sensing a call to rebuild something—your spiritual habits, your family culture, a ministry, a broken relationship—today is about asking, "What would obedience look like in practical terms?" Big vision often begins with specific requests and simple, executable steps.

- What is one area you believe God may be calling you to rebuild (character, relationships, ministry, community impact)?
- List three practical needs or supports you would require (time, counsel, training, finances, teammates, boundaries).
- What is one bold but reasonable request you can bring to God today, trusting His provision?
- Who is one person you can ask for help or wisdom, like Nehemiah sought resources and support?
- Write your next step in a single sentence that begins with: "With God's help, I will..."

DAY 5

NEHEMIAH 2:16-18

Nehemiah inspected the walls before he made announcements. He took time to “see the big picture,” understanding the real conditions so he wouldn’t speak out of ignorance. The sermon connected this to spiritual leadership: discern the landscape, acknowledge the rubble honestly, and then invite others into hope-filled action.

When he finally spoke, he didn’t shame the people—he shared reality and testimony: “You see the trouble we are in,” and “the gracious hand of my God was on me.” That combination fuels courage. God’s mission is never just personal improvement; it’s shared rebuilding. The church becomes a house of prayer that turns into a people on mission—hands and feet, salt and light.

Today is about proceeding with faith even when opposition is real. Nehemiah faced resistance, but he didn’t let it define the story. If God has placed a burden in you, you’re not meant to carry it alone. Invite others, take your place, and trust that God can rebuild what feels beyond repair—for His glory and for the good of people.

- What “rubble” do you need to look at honestly—without exaggeration or avoidance—so you can respond wisely?
- Where might God be inviting you to move from private concern to shared mission (with family, friends, or church community)?
- Identify one way you’ve experienced God’s “gracious hand” in your life that you can remember when courage is needed.
- What is one small act of service or ministry you can commit to in the next two weeks as a step toward rebuilding?
- Pray: “Lord, make us a people of prayer and a people of action—help us rise and build in Your strength.”



THANK YOU

For Completing Our
5 Day Devotional

My prayer is that these five days have helped you recognize God's Spirit-given holy discontent—not as a burden to carry alone, but as an invitation to draw closer to Him and join Him in the work of restoration. May the honest grief, deep prayer, humble repentance, wise planning, and courageous action you've explored continue to shape your life. As you rebuild what is broken, beginning in your own heart and extending into your relationships, church, and community, may God give you Nehemiah's faith and courage to act—and may His kingdom become more visible through your obedience, one faithful step at a time.