



WEEK TWO

I Can't

March 22 & 23, 2014

Pastor Jeff Countryman

The lies we believe are so subtle, but yet they have the overwhelming ability to keep us from the life God wants for us. Discover how to live in the Truth that will set you free.

MESSAGE NOTES

Nehemiah 2

1. Define the mission clearly
2. Make plans carefully
3. Inspire people passionately

PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. **Is there something you can do that when you were young you never dreamed you'd be able to do?** How did you come to be able to do it?

2. **Consider this quote by Henry Ford: "If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right."** What did he mean by this? Is he right?

3. **Read Nehemiah 2:1-17.** What two emotions did Nehemiah feel in the first two verses? Why?

What did he do about them?

What do these two emotions often motivate people to do or not do? How do they motivate you?

4. **What kind of preparations did Nehemiah make as he got ready to leave for Jerusalem?**

Why do you think he did these things? What lesson is there for us in this?

5. What did Nehemiah do when he arrived at Jerusalem?

Why do you think he didn't tell anyone at first the reason he was there? How did he convince his countrymen to join him in rebuilding the wall? (see verses 17 and 18)

6. Pastor Jeff said Nehemiah defined the mission clearly, made plans carefully, and inspired his people passionately. Can you think of another example in scripture where God gave someone a burden and that person responded with these same steps?

7. Why is it sometimes true that courage and passion will follow a significant step of faith rather than precede it?

8. John C. Maxwell wrote: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Do you agree?

How would you describe what it means to "care" about something?

9. What are the things God cares most about, in your opinion?

Do you care about those same things?

Personal Meditation: To be passionate about a burden, in the truest sense of the word, is to be willing to suffer for it. Make a list, even if it's a short one, of what it is that burdens you more than anything else. What wrong do you ache to see righted? What brokenness do you long to see made whole? What emptiness around you does your heart cry out to see filled? If you aren't sure, ask God to show you His heart for the world you live in. Ask Him to show you where the "broken wall" is in your little corner of the planet. And then ask God to help you take the first step of action.

Memorize Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."