

Sermon Notes

Now What? Part 4

October 28th – October 29th, 2023

- **Now What?** Vision Series: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out
- **So Far:** So, now what? Now we take it to the next level. How redemption works...
 - o Reach Up – Now What? Now we fix our eyes on Jesus! **Hebrews 12:1-2**
 - o Rise Up – Now What? Now we live a life worthy of Jesus! **Colossians 1:10**
 - o Reach Our – Now What? Now we make the most of every opportunity! **Ephesians 5:15-16**
- **Part 4: Now What? Now We Celebrate!!!**
 - o We are back in our building for the first time since August 6th!! My first time back since April!!!
 - First order of business, Thank Lots of People!!!
- **Return of Israelites to Jerusalem**
 - o The Israelites went from Egypt to the Promised Land!! Yay!!
 - o However, they were banished for disobedience to God...but then, **Jeremiah 29:10-14**.
 - Now the return has begun. The temple is rebuilt, but Jerusalem is in ruins.
 - o Nehemiah's heart is to rebuild Jerusalem. (**Nehemiah 2:1-9**) And he gets to do it!!
 - There is great opposition, but they overcome! **Nehemiah 4:16-20**
 - o After a while a bunch of exiles return and they get to celebrate!! **Nehemiah 8:1-12**
 - Why all this weeping?? They had rebuilt the temple, the walls of Jerusalem, so why weep??
 - They heard about the Promised Land, how it could be kept, and how it could be lost.
 - o Blessings for obedience to God, curses for disobedience.
 - Generations before had been told. Deuteronomy 28-30 contains it all. They heard it.
 - o Ex: **Deut 28:49-52, Deut 29:24-25, Deut 30:11-20**
 - o Now the people fully understood who they were, the chosen of God, but that they had suffered greatly because of their ancestors disobedience to God.
 - But it was not time to weep! It was the dawn of a new day, time to celebrate!! **Neh 8:10**
 - About 3 weeks later, as recorded in Nehemiah 9, they all gathered to confess their sins and pledge their faithfulness to God. Good plan.
- What can we learn from this story?
 - o God is good and He wants good things for us!! However, we've got to choose to go with God.
 - The temptations may change some through the years, but it's the same story: People serve God, He blesses them, the people get complacent, bad things happen, people repent...
 - o What are some of the temptations of today?
 - 1) Forsake the Lord. People can sort of wander away even if they believe.
 - Instead: Let's honor and love the Lord in our daily lives!
 - 2) Live in darkness while claiming faith. **Titus 1:16**
 - Instead: Let's live the life!! It's better for everyone.
 - 3) Be consumer Christians rather than servants of God.
 - Who is being served at the church service? Not you, it's supposed to be God!!!
 - Instead: Let's put the Kingdom of God first and our wants behind us.
- Now What: Let's Celebrate!! But, let's also align ourselves with God so we stand in His blessings.
 - o Next week: What it will take to go to the next level. Some big plans for the future!
 - o Today, let's choose life. **Deuteronomy 30:19**
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.