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# Focused Determination

NEHEMIAH 1

*Pastor Todd Dugard*

April 23-24, 2016

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## WARMING UP

1. Are you a person with an adventurous spirit or are you more laid back? What is a situation where that showed? Do you believe that either way, God has something great for you to be a part of?

## DIGGING IN

*If you're determined to have God do great things through you ...*

2. *Then you'll need to show compassion for those around you (Neh. 1:1-4a).*
  - What are some groups or individuals you would describe as being, "in great trouble and shame" today? What makes it difficult to identify with those who are in trouble and shame? What are some things that block our compassion for others?
  - Who do I need to develop a heart of compassion for, whether an individual or a group of people? What motivates me to develop compassion? (See 2 Corinthians 5:20-21)
  - Pastor Todd suggested that for us, as a church, 7 George St. could be a "center of compassion to help the hurting." Have I determined I will be part of this? Who can I go "on record" with that I am in?
3. *Then you'll want to align your efforts with what God is doing (Neh. 1:4b-10).*
  - What are the four primary ways Pastor Todd said we align with God's will?
  - Which of these is a "growth point" for me? What action can I take to move the needle up? Who will I ask to help me in that?
  - Oswald Chambers said, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." How can I take my prayer life up a notch?
  - If God answered my prayers would the result be considered a "Bold endeavor for God"? Do I have the determination to increase my boldness?
4. *Then you'll take personal responsibility to see things happen (Neh. 1:11).*
  - What is the thing God has put in front of me right now? Is there any risk in following God's leading in this? Am I willing to take the risk?
  - How can I take personal responsibility for the thing God has put in front of me? Why does my main concern need to be on myself, not others?

## BREAKING OUT

5. What is standing in the way of my participating fully in the great work God has for my life right now? What step(s) do I need to take to fully commit? How can my small group be a meaningful part of this process?