

SERMON

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, January 12-13, 2019

SERIES TITLE: STEADFAST: *Joining God in the Work of Building His Kingdom*

SERMON TITLE: Having a Great Today

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 1:1-4

[1] The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,

[2] Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

[3] They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

[4] When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

January 12-13, 2019

Title: Having a Great Today

We need to ask God to:

1. Show us the need.

2. Give us a heart like His.

- *Luke 19:41-44* As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

3. Prepare and equip us to serve.

- Sit down and wait on God.
 - *Psalms 46:10* “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
- Weep and mourn.
 - *Ezra 9:6* “I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to lift up my face to you, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens.”
- Fast and pray.

Lagniappe

2018 was a historic year for First Baptist Church.

Obviously, opening a new and amazing worship center would certainly make this a historic year at any place. But it's also history making because the church reached record levels in 2018 in every measurable category.

Worship attendance increased 13% last year over the previous year, averaging 2253 people each weekend in attendance.

Our Connect Groups (formerly known as Bible Study Fellowship) also reached a record high average attendance with 1419 people per weekend in Bible study. While many churches have downplayed Bible study, we have continued to encourage people to be a part of a weekend small group Bible study. We encourage that for the fellowship and ministry as well as the teaching of Scripture.

Last year we baptized 145 people which like the other categories is an all time high.

Finally, our giving is the highest ever. While we have not closed our books on 2018, we know that our giving was up over 1/2 million dollars over the previous high and that our giving exceeded our expenses. We will have final accounting at our first business meeting of the new year.

You and I know that there are many things important in the Kingdom of God that can't be measured. Please pray for those areas as well as areas that can be measured.

What we want more than anything else is that we would be obedient to God in all things - and that His church would be healthy in every way.