

Thoughts on the Daily Word

26th Week of Year. Wednesday 1st October. Readings: Nehemiah 2:1-8; Psalm: 136; Luke 9:57-62.

Nehemiah is a powerful servant of the all-powerful emperor, Artaxerxes. He has, as a Jew, everything that you could possibly want. Status, power and wealth in abundance, even the emperor responds to his desires. Yet, Nehemiah chooses to leave everything behind to go to the broken-down province of Judah, almost the edge of the civilisation. There he wants to rebuild this insignificant ruin of a poor city. He will risk his life to accomplish the rebuilding of the temple and the city. For what? Nehemiah has a dream, a vision and he is prepared to risk everything to make it happen. This is what Jesus is talking about. Jesus hasn't invented this, he fulfils it, giving everything himself for the new Jerusalem. Is that our dream?