

Jesse Hanna: It's my pleasure to introduce to you Clinton Faupel, who is the Remedy man, he is the mind, he's the brains, he's the visionary, the marketer behind remedy, and we're thankful he's a friend of Blackhawk and he's going to be sharing with us today Nehemiah. Welcome him.

Clinton Faupel: Thanks Jesse. (applause) Thank you everyone. We are blessed to be with you guys this morning. Blackhawk is a dear friend to Remedy FM. We're so pleased to be able to bring God's word to you today. I want to introduce you to the most important folks in my life when we have a chance. My wife and my little boy Duke are here in the front row. My little gangster just three months old and then my twin 2 year olds are the tornados in the children's ministry right now along with my 4 year old Ella. And these, these little gangsters have really shown me what life's all about. You know I find that there's nowhere in the word of God where we're called adults of God. You notice that? We're always called children of God. And I think that's because you know our daddy sees us as children and not as grown-up mature, you know. We've got it all figured out kind of people. And so I'm really excited to be able to introduce you to my family.

You know this morning we're going to talk about Nehemiah. And if you have a chance to open your bible and get there that would be a good start. We're not gonna get into text just yet. But I want to tell you about where we're going to go this morning. I'm going to talk about mourning. And I know this is kind of a morbid subject. It's not something that usually a guest speaker will come with especially someone that leads a web-based ministry like we do. And we're just so excited to be able to come with reports. We've always been good you know at giving reports to our churches. But Kelly has been so wonderful to give us time. You know just under three years, last year we had a 131,000 viewers check out our content. Twenty-one thousand chat conversations, last month we surpassed 2009's numbers. So we will hit a quarter of a million viewers this year alone. And it's been through the prayer of the saints of people like that have supported us with this organization. And if there's any passion in your heart to help us financially or otherwise, we do need 12 families to come along side us in these days so that we can continue to reach. Because as our numbers expand of course, our audience expands through broadcast media we have to continue to grow. So thank you so much for this opportunity.

But I'm going talk about mourning today. And I don't know when the first time you experienced mourning, but I remember I was just a little guy. I was probably about nine years old. And I was staying at my step-sister's house. You know I was really young. And my sister was quite a bit older. She had kids. And I enjoyed going to their home because they had toys. They had lots of fun things to play with. And they weren't my toys so I could break them. (laughing) and I remember we were over there for a

weekend. And I woke up one morning and there was this somber mood over the house. And I could tell even at that age that something was wrong. And one of the other little kids who obviously wasn't very good at reporting bad news ran up to me and said your dad is dead. Ha, ha, you're dad's dead. And I thought, pardon. You know it wasn't my birth father but he was my step-father. and what had happened the night before is my stepdad who of course was staying at the home that we lived in. I was away at my step sister's. he had died of asphyxiation. And the chimney had become blocked. And they had found him in the hallway on his way to the bathroom collapsed on the floor. And I was introduced to mourning to death. I remember my mom really having a hard time with this. She had been through a really difficult marriage with my father who was abusive and alcoholic. And so she found this man that she really loves. He really seemed to be the kind of guy that was considerate of her. He had a ranch. He had thirteen horses which she loved. And now all of that was all gone. And I remember my mother just weeping and weeping and weeping. She was so broken. From this time where she was realizing that her best friend and her husband was no longer on earth. You know I think that mourning brings clarity. Mourning brings clarity. Mourning brings clarity. There's a real sobering that comes over the human psyche over the human when we go through hard times. And I don't know where you're at this morning in this world of mourning. I think we could easily go to death when we think mourning. But you may be mourning a lot of things today. You may be mourning the loss of a relationship. Maybe the loss of a mortgage of your house maybe the loss of your physical but now you're dealing with a disease and you don't know what that's going to look like. Maybe you're in the midst of some other kind of mourning. But I think that mourning does something for us as humans where it kind of wakes us up. And we start to think differently about the days that we've been given. A few years ago when I was on staff at Fellowship Missionary Church there was a fairly public situation that was in the media. A few months before that I found myself at Stillwater Camp doing what I loved to do, baptisms. And I was baptizing some men and women. and this young man came up to me. He was in his twenties. And I baptized him. And I remember him saying to me, his name was Mike, that he wanted to put his flag in the sand. And live the rest of the days with purpose with strategy. Living by God's way not his way. And I remember us going into that little pond together and me putting Mike below the water. And him coming out truly sharing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ having a brand new creature. Now he wasn't saved by baptism, but indeed that baptism was a landing symbol of him saying goodbye to the old. Well I was at home one night and I got a phone call from one of my fellow church members saying did you hear about Mike? I said no, I don't know what you're talking about. Well last night there was an auto accident. And see Mike had been driving down a very slippery road and he had come upon a car of a couple of teenagers who had maybe been going a little too fast on that kind of road condition had lost control and ended up in the side of a pole and the electrical wires had come down on the car.

One of the teens died instantly. And you see Mike had pulled up to this accident with a new strategy in life. Live boldly. Live your life as if there is no end. It's only eternal. That there is a plan for your life to boldly charge ahead. And so Mike pulled his vehicle over ran over to the car and pulled the living teenager out of the vehicle. But while doing so and throwing the teenager to safety, Mike brushed up against an electrical cable and died instantly. I was asked to come and do the funeral and I was pleased to do so because again I'm kind of weird this way. I like doing funerals because this is a very sober time. People are real. They don't want to beat around the bush about what they did yesterday or you know how things are going with that bush in their garden. They want to talk about real things. That's why I said I'd do the funeral, absolutely. And I remember being at that funeral and sharing Mike's story. And I stood up there and I said, "Mike is my hero". Because here's a young man who decided to put his flag in the sand and say I'm going to live with purpose about one life to live. I'm going to live it with a strategic focus on God's word. And there's no turning back. And I believe when he saw that car on the side of the road mangled and torn and with lives inside that car, I don't he thought twice. He said I'm going to do this. And I shared the story of how much I admired this young man and how he was no longer in that casket but that he was with his father, God, his daddy. And that Mike would want me to say to everyone in that funeral home which by the way was packed with people out on the street. You see the news had spread everywhere. In fact if you didn't hear about it, it was on all the national networks as well of a hero that Mike was. And they came to my home and they interviewed me. I said Mike was a hero because of his faith. And I stood up at that funeral and I said Mike would want me to tell you that you too can live your life on purpose. That you too can put your flag in the sand and say I am not going to live a mediocre life. I am not going to live a life where I just kind of go through the motions. Get up. Go to work. Come home. Go to bed. I am going to have a purpose. I am going to live my life so when I end up on death's door I can say I did it all to the glory of God. I said who in this room would stand right and receive the free gift that Jesus Christ offers us like Mike did living boldly. Well with integrity that over 25 people stood that day and made their steps toward the kingdom of God to become as we say within our church circles born again, brand new creatures. Now why do I tell you that story? Well because in that mourning, in that mourning time there was incredible clarity, incredible clarity for those people. They saw their friend who was with one day and was gone the next. They saw the reality. The time is not promised to you and I. that we have to live with purpose. And you know I was thinking about this. And Kelly and I were talking about this morning. And I said you know what I want to talk about something that I think is relevant. And I so I came up with this thought out this time with Mike and I call it the mourning slide. Now, like any slide I'm sure all of us have been at playgrounds. I know with my children I go regularly to a place called the wooden park. I don't think it's named that but my kids call it the wooden park because it's made out of wood. Pretty amazing. So we go to the

wooden park and there is a slide. And like any slide you go on the slide and where does the slide take you? down, right? And I so I thought about this mourning slide that sometimes and you may not be like me. Maybe you're you know never going through tough times, maybe life is really good for you here at Blackhawk all the time. But sometimes I go through struggles. And I go on these mourning slides where I wake up a little bit down, little bit discouraged. Call it depressed. Call it oppressed. Call it deep contemplation. Whatever might want to call, it's a deep dark time where you find yourself kind of going down. Whatever you call it it's taking you on a journey. And I'll call it for this morning's purposes the mourning slide. I have to ask you what slide maybe has God taken you on lately? Again it could be financial, it could be physical, it could be relational. It could still be that same personal journey you've been since a child when maybe you were abused. And you keep that baggage. And you've walked with it for many, many years. What journey are you on? What slide are you on even today as we come into this room? You know I want to say kudos you've never attended the first service in the Asylum you've got to try it. We had some amazing acts of God. Anyone here from that Asylum that was first service this morning. Anybody come over? We had an incredible experience this morning of people standing up just opening up about their mourning slides, transparency, I love it. I love transparency. I love being real. Again one life live, let's live it now. Let's live it on purpose. And so I was just so taken back by the honesty of that group over there. But the reality is we are all on a journey. And some of you are on some deep dark slides right now. This economy's been hard. This marriage of yours has been difficult. Your teenage son or daughter has decided no more churchie for me, no more faith for me. And they've given up. Maybe you have that illness. Maybe you're dealing with that cancer. Maybe you've been to a funeral lately and had to say goodbye. One person across the way had someone murdered recently in their life. Devastated. Whatever it is, I believe that a lot of us are on that journey. And if we're not on the journey today I would tell with you some confidence that you'll be on some kind of a mourning slide at some point in your future maybe even as early as tomorrow. It's not something that I wish upon but that is the reality of the life that we live. What challenge have you found yourself in where God wants you to lean into him rather than lean into self? The mourning slide is simply this that you and I are on a journey. And we can ride that slide to the very bottom and find our creator God waiting for us. Or we can try and do what we do often in our daily lives don't we? Where we take kind of off ramps escape routes like me when I was a young raised in an unchurched home where I saw my father, he was an alcoholic, tried early to do the same. I started to get into drugs. I started to get into relationships. I tried it all. Addictions of all sorts all different off ramps of escapism because didn't want hurt. No one wants to hurt. No one likes that. No one says bring on the pain. Although we do live in a tattooed pierced generation don't we? There might be something to that. But no one really wants to be in pain. No one wants to mourn. I want to introduce you to one of the most I think greatest leaders of our bible

and that is Nehemiah. In the face of great struggle he was a great leader. And although we could spend the next 52 weeks in this book we've got 16 more minutes. He was a committed servant of God, but he was also servant of God's enemy. You see he was a cupbearer to the king. And a cupbearer has a pretty ridiculous responsibility. You see whenever brings some drink or some food to the king guess who gets to taste it for poison? The cupbearer. Sounds like a pretty groovy job. Wonder if you could find that on LinkedIn, you know? Cupbearer. And so Nehemiah had a pretty fantastic relationship with the king because the king really trusted Nehemiah for his very life. It was a risky job that Nehemiah had. And if we could spend the entire time this morning talking about Nehemiah we'd get so many great lessons out of this book. Here's a guy who really did an incredible, incredible thing because of obedient ear to God. But he rode a mourning slide. I want to jump in to the text here in a little bit. But what happens at the beginning of Nehemiah is his brother comes to him and says Bro! you would not believe the city of Jerusalem. It lies in ruin! The walls have been torn down. The houses are burnt to the ground. People are depressed or discouraged. The beautiful city of Zion, Jerusalem is no more. It's totally, totally devastated. And we in Nehemiah 1:4 if you're following me in your bible. I'm reading out the cure bible, our remedy fm cure bible. But it says in Nehemiah 1:4, when I heard this Nehemiah I sat down and cried. Then for several days I mourned. I went without eating to show my sorrow. And I prayed. Now if you have your bible open to Nehemiah join me as I read this prayer of Nehemiah. Lord God of heaven you are great and fearsome. And you faithfully keep your promises to everyone who loves you and obeys your commands. I am your servant. So please have mercy on me. And answer the prayer that I might, that I make day and night for these people of Israel who serve. I, my family and the rest of your people have sinned by choosing to disobey you and the laws and teachings you gave to servant Moses. Please remember the promise you made to Moses. He told them that if we were unfaithful you would scatter us among four nations. But you also said that no matter how far we were we could turn to you and start obeying your laws. And then you would bring us back to the place where you have chosen to be worshiped. Our lord I am praying for your servants. Those you rescued by your great strength and mighty power please answer my prayer. And the prayer of your other servants who gladly honor your name. when I serve the king his wine today make him pleased with me. And have him do what I asked. Now I know this is foolishness. And I don't think you know I'd probably get arrested for it. But if I decided to catch a greyhound today to Washington D.C. and march up the steps of the White House and knock on that door and say, President Obama I got some plans I'd like to see instilled around here. Probably shouldn't use my George Bush impression at that point, but. It probably wouldn't go well for me. But again follow me in Nehemiah 2, but we see this crazy thing happen. During the month of the Nisan in the twentieth year Artaxerxes was king I served him his wine as I had done before. But this was the first time I ever looked depressed. And so the king said why do you look so sad? You're not

sick. Something must be bothering you. even though I was frightened, I answered. You're majesty I hope you live forever. I feel sad because the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins. And it's gates have been burned down. The king asked what do you want me to do? I prayed to the God who rules from heaven. Now this is an incredible story, incredible story. Really historical event that occurred. First of all Nehemiah says to the king, well first of all king I want some time off. Let me have some time off, you know two or three maybe six years. King says cool okay, alright. We'll do that. And you know what king there's been this law that you laid down that no one's allowed to mess with Jerusalem. You kind of want that whole city to lie in ruin, but I want to go and I want to rebuild it. I want to rebuild the wall. So can you change the law of the land and allow me to go back to Jerusalem and do my, my work that my God has called me to do? Sure you can do that. And then he says you know what king there's a lot of people that want to harm me. I've got a lot of critics a lot of enemies, people that don't like Jewish folks, people that don't believe in my god, people that want to see Jerusalem lay as kind of a rocky ruin. Would you send a few marines with me? In fact could you just kind of send a ton of marines with me? Okay, king says. So he's got the time off. He's gotten the law changed. He's got a pretty military going with you. and you what he's gonna ask next. King, kind of tight right now. Don't have a whole lot of mullah. Could you, could you bankroll the sucker for me? And he asked the king to pay for the whole project. And you see the king say yes. Now again we can spend 52 weeks in this book. It's a fantastic book. If you want to be encouraged in your walk with God I totally recommend dive into Nehemiah for 10 or 12 years. It will change your life. It's a great, great book. But what we see in Nehemiah is a man who's choosing to ride the mourning slide. Now if you're like me. Maybe you've got some off ramps in your life. You don't like riding that slide to the bottom because at the bottom, that hurts. Slides you know when you're going down and your mourning you're struggling that's a difficult, difficult season. And I think you can think of a time right now in your life where you hated going through but if you agreed with me if you were willing to be transparent you'd say that's where you grew the most. Hardest times of your life that's where you grew the most. Unless of course you took an escape off ramp. Then you ended up with more baggage. I don't know what your off ramp would be. I think you know. If you're gonna be like me it's probably a visit to Best Buy to get a 95" high def television. Because you're bummed that your hockey team lost or something. Or maybe you're going through difficult time in your marriage and you're off ramp is flirting with the girl at work. Or maybe your off ramp is that you're a smoker. Talked to a young man in between services that heard me speak over there, had smoke on his breath. I made him feel pretty uncomfortable I guess. He needed a smoke after the service. It was his off ramp. He doesn't ride this to the bottom. And I know his personal story. It's a tough story. You're off ramp could be going and buying new shoes. It could be like me I like to have chips and dip at 11:00 at night. Nah, seriously a lot of people over eat as their off ramp. Maybe your off ramp is

going out and getting some more ink. Maybe your off ramp is something I couldn't even begin to dream about but you know what it is because you don't want to deal with the fact that your life is going through a challenge or a crisis right now. And it could be a small little thing it could be a big little thing. I know some moms that dip into the sauce mid afternoon because they have such a hard time being a parent to their kids. What is your off ramp today? I'll tell you. challenges will bring you all kinds of different attacks. But our attacks that we receive as we know here at Blackhawk because you guys are such a biblically minded church. I know Kelly really gets you in the word. But our attacks that we receive are not flesh and blood attacks are they? What it Ephesians chapter 6 say? Do you guys know this text? Ephesians 6 says of course that our battle is not against human beings. We're fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world every day. Now you might say okay you kind of lost me there. You had me with the whole mourning thing. But now this whole hocus pocus stuff not there with you. well let me back up. I mentioned the wooden park. I take my girls there all the time. And they love going there. They crawl on everything and fall off things. It's really fun for them. But there's this one slide that they love going up on. And because I'm in you know in broadcasting I like to commentate. I guess I always wanted to be a hockey commentator. I don't know. And I'll commentate for them. And get them all excited about being here and going up the slide. They get real excited about it. You go up the slide and they just love it when papa commentates. And so they ride the slide down. And they'll do all kinds of crazy tricks. They'll put their hands up. They'll close their eyes. They'll go on their belly. They love it even more when papa's at the bottom of the slide with my arms out. Because then they can close their eyes. Then they can trust. It's going to be okay because daddy's down there. And so they ride that slide. And they are just, they are content because their papa's gonna catch them at the bottom. We are under attack everyday folks. And yes it might be your employer. Yes, it might be your ex-wife. Yes it might be your child. Yes it might be your neighbor. Yes it might even be yourself. It might be an addiction. It might be something but I'll tell you what that is not where our real battle is. our battle is a spiritual battle. You know I think about this like a fire. You ever have a fire in your backyard. You know get this wood together. You burn the fire. And there's these byproducts of the fire: smoke, heat, and there's probably others. You know I often talk to people at remedy fm and we talk to so many kids. I'm talking thousands, tens of thousands of kids a year. And they're rally vulnerable with us right away. How are you doing turns into I had an abortion yesterday. How are you doing turns into grandma died of cancer last night. How you doing turns into I'm plagued by addiction. And so these kids are so honest with us immediately at remedy fm. That we hear all kinds of things. But they always want to cut out the byproduct. Well if I could just stop looking at porn. If I could just stop using drugs. If I could just you know being this or doing that. That's not the problem. What's going on in the fire? What's going on in the heart? What's going on the real deal, the source?

What's going on there? What's going on that's taking you on this mourning slide and causing you to deeply go into yourself where you so desperately want to escape. You want to jump off that slide half way through. You know how that works right? You jump off the slide you end up hurting yourself. And so many people every day in our culture especially here in North America there's no shortage of distractions of things that we can do to escape. We can escape our off ramps in every way shape or form. Again I can't list them all. What is yours? Got a new boat? My marriage stinks I'll buy a new boat. Work 90 hours a week cause you can't stand to go home to your spouse. Stop talking to your child because they're not listening anyways. Started dressing a little more provocatively is that your off ramp? What is your off ramp? Because I want to tell you that your daddy wants you to ride the slide to the very bottom. Christianity is such an oxymoron. I'll tell ya. The dude that helped me pray the prayer when I was 18 if I could get my hands on him. It's such a paradox isn't it? If you want to live you must die. If you want to be first you've got to be last. It's so crazy. And yet our daddy says the only you can get through this hardship is to be broken. We don't like that. We want to touch the screen for healing. We want to be. We want our wallets to full up with money. We want our Kia to turn into a Ferrari. We don't like hardship. We don't like struggle. We don't like it tough. Read your book. It's called the book of Acts. I didn't see anybody doing the pyramid scheme there that made the millions. Hardship. Our daddy says ride that slide. And Nehemiah had an ear to that daddy. And that daddy took him and helped him rebuild the city two mile long wall twenty feet high in some places four feet thick in some places and it was done. Nearly 100% participation because Nehemiah heard the voice of God. What is he saying to you today? What's your mourning slide right now? What is your challenge? What is it that you're going through? Because Nehemiah provides a great example of believing big hairy audacious things. Go to the king. Ask him for everything. And watch your daddy provide what you need to get through this.

I appreciated Korban's exercise earlier. I assume you've been doing a lot of that lately this summer. But that was so good because the reality is we are finding ourselves in more and more deserts in our society. Financially, marriages are failing almost 2 to 1 now. It's very sad. Addictions are rampant. The web, the internet has caused so much pain to so many people. That's why we feel we have to be missionaries to this place and get kids and get people talking about life issues so we can give them the cure god's word as the solution the remedy Jesus Christ. What is your situation here today? Your Matthew 5 says it best. Blessed are those who what? Who mourn. Who lean into their mourning and say daddy I'm getting clarity here. I don't like it. I don't like it that I don't like myself. I don't like it that I can't remember why I married this person. I don't like it that I want to do my Xbox 360 more than I want to read my devotional booklet. I don't like it that I'd rather be escaping that this moment. I want to be numb. I don't want to feel this anymore. I don't like all that stuff. I don't like that I've carried this baggage for so

many years. I don't like all the voices I hear my head. I don't like that daddy. I don't want to hear that stuff anymore. And daddy says just keep riding the slide. I've got some plans for you at the bottom. I've got my arms wide open. I want to be there to grab you and to hold you and show you what it means to rebuild the walls in your life. To rebuild the beautiful city of your life. To show you what it really means to live on purpose. To put your flag in the sand. And I am going to charge ahead. I'm gonna believe things that are more difficult to believe than anything I believed before. But I'm going to stand to on this super natural God and believe supernatural things. And be part of supernatural activity because I believe in the God who is not by any means seconds to anything on this earth. He is the creator of all things. Praise God. I will walk ahead. And I will ride this slide to the bottom. And I will not try to escape off to a place that is secondary to what God wants for me. Will you ride the slide today?

Well first service I was able to get down in the crowd and ask some questions. And get to know some of the peeps. I don't want to make anyone nervous. I'm not going to do that. But will you ride the slide. It's your slide. It's your ride. God's not going to make you stay on that slide. But if you get off the slide and do your own thing Romans chapter 1 says he gives us over to our sinful desires to do what not ought not to be done. Daddy doesn't want that for you. or will you ride an off ramp of escape? Let's stand together in closing.

I'm a Canadian. That makes me a little weird. Be honest. I pray a little differently than a lot of folks. I anticipate God to move. And he's moved here today. I can tell. I want you to put your hands out like this as if to cup up what God wants to pour out on our life right now. And if you feel comfortable. I'd like you raise your hands so that he can shower himself down upon you. and I'm pray scripture over you right now. Trusting that God can do a way better job of speaking to you than I can. And he has this to say. What can we say about all of this? If god is on our side can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own son, but he gave him for us. If god did this won't he freely give us everything else. If god says his chosen ones are acceptable to him can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No, indeed. Christ died and was raised to life. And now he is at god's right side speaking to him for us. Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble suffering and hard times or hunger and nakedness or danger and death? It is exactly as the scriptures say for you we face death all day long Lord. We are like sheep on their way to be butchered. To save kids in cars that have driven off the road. In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I'm sure that nothing can separate us from God's love. Not life, or death, nor angels or spirits. Not the present or the future. And not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us. In Christ Jesus our Lord, amen.

And father as we leave here I pray in the name of the risen one who defeats those off ramps. God I pray in the name of the risen one who allows us to see that brokenness is the key to wholeness. I pray in the name of the risen that as we go down this slide Lord Jesus as the man in this room who is on the verge on bankruptcy goes down the slide that he will find himself rich at the bottom. I pray for the young lady who suffers with an eating disorder and struggles every day to feed herself that as she rides the slide to the bottom she will learn with each inch down that slide that she is a princess of the most high king. I pray for the marriage in this room that even in this very place it's a miracle that they're here but you have set up the appointment that they would hear today that's it's time to ride the slide together to rebuild their marriage. And Lord I pray for the unspoken things that I don't know but you do. I pray for the man who wants to go to college who has no money. And thinks he's gonna be just like the other five generations of his family where they've gone nowhere fast. I pray he'll stay on that slide. I pray for everyone Lord God in situations trusting that you are the God that calls us to be rebuilding the wall. I pray this in Jesus name because it has power. Amen.