

A Whole New WORLD

May 19, 2024

Stuart Hall

- ◆ **IDEA:** Malcolm Gladwell says that “We have a storytelling problem. We’re a bit too quick to come up with explanations for things we don’t really have an explanation for.” Whenever we stop trying to do what seems impossible, we settle for a version of life that God never intended. For the sake of the next generation, we have to keep doing what seems at times impossible.
- ◆ **THINK:** Two things must have been true of the people in Jerusalem in 445 BC: they had lived in those conditions for so long that they didn’t see how bad things were anymore, and they had lived in those conditions for so long that they couldn’t imagine how anything would ever change. How do you relate to these two truths as it relates to the next generation and today? Of these two truths, which is most true of you today? Explain your answer.

How would you answer this question that Stuart posed: “I’m just wondering. If our God is so amazing, then why don’t we stop talking about it and do something?” Would you say, “It’s impossible?” Explain your answer.

Nehemiah names what was broken in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:3). Which of the Gen Z markers was most eye-opening for you? Which concerns you the most?

Let’s discuss this statement: When Jesus people ignore the next generation, they forfeit their ability to influence the next generation.

Stuart said, “I do not have to be right to have influence, but I cannot have influence if I have to be right. And even if I am right, how do I influence the next generation toward what is right if I don’t have any influence? You don’t have influence because you are right. You have influence because you care.” Agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

Read Nehemiah 2:11-12. Why do you think proximity always changes your perspective? Have you lost perspective regarding the next generation because you’re not close enough? Do you not feel a responsibility to be closer?

Do you see teenagers and college students as problems to be solved or people to be loved? Why do you see things this way? Explain your answer.

- ◆ **DO:** You measure how safe you, your home and faith community is by the stories the next generation have been brave enough to share. How safe are you? Your home? Our faith community?

Read 1 John 2:6 and Galatians 5:6. What do John and Paul’s perspectives regarding the measurement of faith mean to you? How do you flesh this out in real life?