

Nehemiah 1  
“Nehemiah: Leadership in the Rubble”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO **Nehemiah 1**...

**LET'S PRAY -**

**INTRO -**

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: **“God Has you right where he wants you”**

NEHEMIAH IS ONE OF THE BEST EXHIBITIONS ON LEADERSHIP

- History Lesson
  - 1 Kings 9:4-8 NLT
    - March of 607 BC the nation of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrian empire
    - Then in 539 BC the Medopersian took over Babylon.
      - Zerubbabel led the first group of Jews back to their home land in 538 BC
      - 80 years later came Ezra
      - 13 years after Ezra, Nehemiah was called by God

**2 CHRONICLES 36:18-19 NLT**

- BOOK OF EZRA - Rebuilding the Temple
- BOOK OF NEHEMIAH - Rebuilding the Wall

LET'S GET INTO OUR STUDY

- He is just a man like you and I
  - We also know that he is the King's 'cup bearer'

HOW DID A JEW EARN SUCH A HIGH GOVERNMENTAL JOB?

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- Even in exile God opened the door for his people,
  - Daniel, Esther and now Nehemiah
  - In fact Artaxerxes was the stepson of someone you know... Esther
    - And she likely paved the way for the israelites to prosper while in exile

(READ V 1-4 NLT)

### *IDEA 1 - Asking the Right Questions*

IF NEHEMIAH DIDN'T ASK THIS ONE QUESTION THIS BOOK WOULD NOT EXIST

- What's the big deal about a wall anyways?
  - Walls offer protection, and without protection there is great fear, anxiety and vulnerability
    - All it took was someone who cared

NEHEMIAH ASKED THE RIGHT QUESTION

- By learning to ask the right questions, it could lead to tremendous doors of ministry and opportunities for growth within your life
  - What questions do you need to ask yourself today:
    - What is the condition of my marriage?
    - How am I raising my Kids?
    - What's the current state of my relationship with God?
    - What does God want me to do at work?

A WALL WAS A VERY PRACTICAL THING

- Ezra Focused on the spiritual restoration while Nehemiah focused on the Practical
  - Both are highly important
    - What are the walls like within your home?
      - Are they broken down? Is your family vulnerable to the attacks of your enemy?

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IT'S BEEN SAID THAT **LARGE DOORS SWING ON LITTLE HINGES**

- That means that God can do great things with little effort or little resources
  - **Even our small faith and Obedience can open large doors and opportunities for us**
    - All we have to do is be obedient to God and be sensitive to his spirit

**(READ V 4 NLT)**

### ***IDEA 2 - Brokenness and Sacrifice***

AS SOON AS NEHEMIAH GOT HIS ANSWER HE MOURNED, PRAYED AND FASTED

- Fasting is a spiritual discipline that the modern day church often neglects
  - 60 times throughout scripture the topic of Fasting is addressed
    - Jesus said in Matthew 6... “When you fast” not if you fast.
      - In other words, As a Christian there is an expectation that you fast
- What I find interesting is that Nehemiah's Job included eating and tasting the king's food and yet he still fasted
  - But he had a perfectly legitimate reason why he couldn't fast
    - It's never a convenient time to fast...
- Jesus inconvenienced himself by coming to this world
  - What the bible would call our reasonable sacrifice
    - **AR Torrey said, “Many men say they are too busy for prayer but for Christ the busier his life got the more he spent time in prayer”**

LET'S BE HONEST...

- **AR Torrey continued to say “As a rule, this is not submission, but spiritual laziness. We do not call it submission to the will of God when we give up**

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after one or two efforts to obtain things by action, we call it lack of strength of character.”

### PLEASE DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP

- Even the disciples found themselves in this same spot in Matthew 26
  - They were human like me and you but their lack of spiritual preparation was what caused them to flee when things became uncertain

### PRAYER CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO NEHEMIAH'S SUCCESS

- Nehemiah was in a place of brokenness and Brokenness is a great strength.
  - Look at **Philippians 4:4-7 NLT**
    - What I love is that when we come to this place in prayer, we experience something that we cannot even understand
      - His ways are beyond our ways and his thoughts are beyond our finding out  
Isaiah 55:8

### HERE IS WHAT IS INTERESTING:

- Look at the first verse in chapter 2
  - Good News Translation: “One day four months later...”
- Yet the bible says **Psalms 34:18 NKJV** “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

### *IDEA 3 - Prayer in Action*

(**READ V 5-11 NLT**)

### THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH IS RIDDLED WITH PRAYER

- It starts and ends with Prayer, and there is prayer at every corner of Nehemiah's life
  - Here is what his prayer revealed about him:

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- That he is a man of great dependance on the Lord
  - AR Torrey “One night of prayer will save us from many nights of insomnia. Time spent in prayer is not wasted. It is time invested at a big interest... Nights of prayer with God are followed by days of power with men”

### NOTICE HIS PRAYER STARTS WITH WORSHIP.

- God is bigger than our problems
- Jesus even taught us this... Hallowed be your name
- Nehemiah's prayers were also saturated with quotations from Scripture, and it shows that he understands God's will.
  - When you pray to God the easiest way to know if you are praying according to his will

### NEHEMIAH THEN PRAYED FOR FORGIVENESS FOR HIS SIN AND HIS ANCESTORS

- I wonder if he was thinking about 2 Chronicles 7:14 NLT
- The Verbiage that he uses is ‘We’ and ‘Us’
  - Nehemiah identifies with those he has never met before, and he sees himself as part of the problem before he becomes part of the solution

### NEHEMIAH ENDS HIS PRAYER BY ASKING FOR FAVOR FROM THE KING

- This show his intention to take action
  - There are 3 things that made Nehemiah successful:
    - 1. He never acted without prayer
    - 2. Nevered prayed without acting
    - 3. Never forgot to give God the credit
  - 
  - He knew what the proverbs said: “The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases.”

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He was burdened for his people, without this wall the israelites were without protection, fearful and vulnerable but it wasn't until somebody cared enough that there was change

**CALL WORSHIP UP -**

**APPLICATION**

MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU IS TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

- Don't be fearful to act on the answers you get
  - Next week were going to look at chapter 2 where Nehemiah see the rubble first hand

BE WILLING TO SEEK THE LORD IN PRAYER OVER THOSE THINGS

- The theme of this book of restoration and God is in the business of restoring broken things
  - The broken walls that have fallen down in your life, the cracks that the enemy has gotten into to harm your growth.
    - God want to restore those those things

**PRAY**