

Nehemiah 2
“Nehemiah: Leadership in the Rubble”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO **Nehemiah 2**...

LET'S PRAY -

INTRO -

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: **“Preparation for the Work”**

THE THEME OF THE BOOK: NEHEMIAH AGONIZED BEFORE HE ORGANIZED

- Before God called him to do something great Nehemiah cared deeply about it.
 - Being patient for God to answer a prayer develops meaning to Psalm 46:10

(READ V 1-2 NKJV)

IN PERSIAN COURTS IT WAS AGAINST THE LAW...

- You could be banished or even killed
 - Remember Queen Esther -
 - This was very dangerous grounds Nehemiah was stepping on

IDEA 1 - God is Working on your Behalf

(READ V 2-9 NKJV)

NEHEMIAH THROWS UP A SHOTGUN PRAYER TO THE LORD

- Nehemiah's answer revealed something about himself

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- Not only was he a man of Prayer but he was a man of planning
- During the 4 months, Nehemiah has had time to think and plan...
 - Nehemiah was a planner: and I'm reminded of Proverbs 16:9 NLT “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”

NOTE: NEHEMIAH WAS SUBMISSIVE TO HUMAN AUTHORITY

- Even his speech is very tactful
 - 1. “May the king live forever”
 - 2. How would you feel if the place of your ancestors...

NOW REMEMBER WHAT NEHEMIAH WAS PRAYING FOR IN CHAPTER 1

- Verse 11 from the NLT says...
 - Nehemiah is asking for the Lord to alter the heart of the king
 - flip in your bibles to, Proverbs 21:1 NLT

NOTICE THIS:

- Nehemiah did all of the homework and knew what he needed to do the work
 - And he asked a lot of the king
 - Yet because God was the one guiding the king's heart the king gave him more than Nehemiah even asked
 - Verse 9. The king sent a royal guard escort
 - Key: God always wants to give us more than we want to receive

NOW CAPTURE THIS WITH ME:

- God gave Nehemiah favor with the king by putting Esther her position as a queen 3 ½ decades before Nehemiah
 - Remember the story of Esther...
 - And Mordecai, Esther's Cousin told her in Esther 4:14 NLT, “...Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”

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- Esther is the step mother of the king
 - Key: God is working on our behalf for our needs even before we know our own needs

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DATES IN HISTORY.

- The exact day was March 14th 445 BC
 - 95 years earlier Daniel prophesied - 70 sets of 7 years
 - Daniel 9:25 NLT
 - When you do the math on a lunar calendar you come up with 173,880 days
 - 173,880 days from March 14th 445 BC will land us precisely on April 6th 32 AD
 - The same day of Jesus' Triumphant entry

(READ V 10-16 NLT)

IDEA 2 - Examine your life

THIS WAS A 2 MONTH JOURNEY FOR NEHEMIAH

- when he arrived he was in the city for 3 days
 - Sometimes being still and waiting is far greater
 - This allows Nehemiah to capture a vision for that this project would look like to rebuild
 - [Michael Angelo - David Illustration]
 - God can see our flaws and the cracks within our life
 - You have to have vision to see potential -
 - [Nehemiah had vision to see what could be underneath the rubble]
 - Prov 29:18 KJV

NEHEMIAH TOOK A FEW MEN

- He writes “I did not tell anyone what God has put in my mind for Jerusalem.”

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- Be very careful who you let into your plans because lots of people would love to offer their 2 cents
 - I'm sure Sanballat and Tobiah would have loved to “Encourage Nehemiah”
 - Here is a word of Caution: we must avoid “shopping” for advice
 - [Rejection of biblical advice from a pastor]
 - Be cautious of that

CAPTURE THIS WITH ME:

- In the NLT verse 13 says that Nehemiah Inspected the wall
 - Nehemiah took time to fact find before he took any action
 - This is part of our theme that he agonized before he organized
 - The word used for inspect is a medical term for probing a wound to see the extent of the damage
 - It's good to sit down and think. Assess your life to see the conditions

IDEA 3 - Who Gave you the Approval?

(READ V 17-20 NLT)

IN THIS CHAPTER NEHEMIAH CHANGES HATS FROM CUPBEARER TO CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN

- And the people very excited to get to work, “Let us rise up and build” they said
 - Building the wall requires people to:
 - 1. Look at the problems
 - 2. Listen to the solution
 - 3. Follow by faith
 - This wall was about 35 acres of land
 - Notices that when he spoke to them the words he used was US and WE
 - He identified himself as part of the problem before God used him for the solution

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- Criticism squelches motivation
 - He’s saying, “I’m with you, let's do this together!”

THIS HAPPENS A LOT IN MARRIAGE
AND IN THE MINISTRY

LOOK AT VERSE 19-20 AGAIN:

- You are going to face opposition when you serve the Lord
 - It's been said that if your not facing criticism then your probably not doing anything
 - You have to be ready to stand in the arena and deal with the opposition.

HOW DOES NEHEMIAH RESPOND?

- He doesn't engage with them and waste his energy or lose focus but is self controlled.
 - A very fitting verse: **Proverbs 25:28 NLT** “A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.”

THESE 3 IRRITATIONS FOR NEHEMIAH WANTED TO GASLIGHT HIM

- To those who attack the work of God the truth never matters.
 - PLEASE DON'T MISS THIS
 - Nehemiah could have just pulled out his royal decrees
 - “God will prosper us!”
 - Definition of approval is “something that is good enough or acceptable”
 - Nehemiah understood that God approved him and so he based his identity on his approval from God and not the approval from man
 - **Psalm 118:6 NLT**

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- Understand this that the bible tell us not to despise the day of small beginnings (Zech 4:10)
 - And he also promises In Philippians 1:6 that Whatever good work he starts he is faithful to finish.

CALL WORSHIP UP -

APPLICATION

PRAY