

Re-cap of last week

Nehemiah Chapter 1 V 1-11

A broken-down Nation

We broke it in 5 sections

V1-3 a man with love for the people

V4 a man with a God sized problem

V5-7 a man driven to pray

V8-9 a man clinging to Gods promises

V11 A man ready to do something with a petition to God

Let's Build

Nehemiah 2:1-20

If you want to take notes, we have 6 sections today

Prayer

Section #1

V1-3 a man with a passion

Neh 2:1 NLT Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving

the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence.

- Now we start chapter 2 with a date about 40 days from when Nehemiah received the news of the broken-down nation and broken-down people.
- Let's look at the benefits of 40 days of fervent prayer
- Our heart changes and the content of our prayer changes

- Our prayer becomes **more intense and desperate**
- Our prayer becomes more **specific and more sensitive** to the leading of the Spirit
- The burden **intensifies....** either take this burden from me or show me how to be the man to answer this call.
- **Learn to Wait on God** with the right heart **without bitterness & resentment** can be one of the most rewarding and personal time of **maturity and personal growth** for us as Christians.

Back to V1 Serving the kings' wine.

a Cupbearer

- Protecting the man and the people who conquered his ancestors and nation
- High ranking official in the royal household a governor/decision maker
- Personal bodyguard to the king tasting food and wine to protect the king

- **Demonstrated** that the food and wine was not poisoned.
- A significant position of **hiring/firing of staff**

Let's do a quick review His character traits

- Trustworthy =
- Faithful = follow through
- Loyal= reliable
- **Impressive character** that takes a lifetime to acquire and **destroyed** in moments.

- **supernatural discernment** for the people working for him.
- Trusted **advisor**

V2 So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. **You must be deeply troubled.**" Then I was terrified,

- Was the next thing he was going to hear **was off with his head?**

- He was **terrified** because it was not **acceptable** for people to be **sad** while in the king's presence.
- kind of like **the fake way** we all act around **people we don't really like** or don't enjoy being around
- How is it going.....
- Oh, it's so good to see you
- How have you been?

What does **deeply troubled** look like

1. **down cast face** that you can shake off
2. **a look of hopelessness** or deep **distress**
3. looks like all the characteristics of **a broken heart**
4. So If you **ware your emotions** on your sleeve **then be ok when someone** asks you **how you are** doing and give an **honest answer**
5. Find a trusted Godly **friend for council/ prayer**

6. Allow them to bring accountability to your sorrow with steps to bring resolve.

Ecc 7:3 NLT Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us.

- Even Jesus is called the man of many sorrows
- So, if you are deeply troubled this morning you are in good company

V3 but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my

ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

- **Long live the king** an **encouraging** moral boost for the king a **common phrase** to **break the silence** of Nehemiah being called out.
- Also a **subtle reminder of Nehemiah's faithful** service and **trustworthy** character.

V3b but I replied, "Long live the king!
How can I not be sad? For the city

where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

- **How can I not be sad** he has been **praying** with a heavy burden for **40 + days and it is not going away.**
- **We have all been in the place before**
- He has **not seen the problem,** but he is **fully aware of the burden.**

- When seeking Gods will in prayer be sure to follow the burden and not the problem.
- Let's look at a few Keys to not Forcing an answer from God in prayer
- Nehemiah understood it was not his place to change the king's heart.
- He prayed and left it up to the LORD, not dropping hints or manipulation to people around him.

- **He showed Patience/longsuffering**
purposely suffering long for the good of
the burden
- It always comes down to **God's terms**
and Gods timing, we need to be flexible
and patient
- Are we **trying to change someone**
heart, instead of **leaving it up** to the
LORD to do it?
- Truly **leaving it up** to the **Lord trusts**
Gods terms and Gods timing

Section #2

V4-6 a man with clear permission

V4 The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven,

- but it why was the king so willing to help?

#1. Don't forget God is still in control not us!

Pro 21:1 NLT The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.

#2. God used the lifelong witness and character of Nehemiah as a trusted man.

- Personal bodyguard to the king
- Impressive accountability system must have been accurate they were both still alive
- Teambuilder= Supernatural gift of discernment to work with people.
- Demonstrated his accountability daily that the food and wine was safe to eat and drink.

- **Staffing expert** with a bullet proof system for **safe food** and wine resources.
- **Proven Life or death** protection system in place
- **Great leadership quality traits**

Trustworthy

Faithful

Loyal

proven character

Time tested Trusted advisor

- When the king answered how can I help Nehemiah knew the 40 days of prayer was answered
- At the end of every difficult circumstance or difficult situation God allows us to experience is a testimony of Gods goodness
- I wonder how many times we stopped short by giving up
- so it was time to strike while the iron is HOT, so he immediately prayed again.

V4b The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" **With a prayer to the God of heaven,**

- **Prayer is talking, listening, and being sensitive to Gods timing all in one breath**
- **This prayer is Not for 40 days this time but 4 seconds *LORD HELP ME!***
- **4 seconds of heartfelt desperate dependency of God and God alone**

- **Prayer does not have to be long to be effective**

Psalm 38:22 NLT Come quickly to help me,
O Lord my savior.

Psalm 86:1 NLT Bend down, O LORD, and
hear my prayer; answer me, for I need your
help.

V5 I replied, "If it please the king, and if
you are pleased with me, your servant,

send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

- **Nehemiah's subtle reminder** of his **years of faithful** service and if the king would **like to join him**

V5b I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, **send me** to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

- **Wisdom is shown** here by Nehemiah asking the King **to send him & join him**

- **Inviting the king** to help **carry the burden** of his trusted friend this is an **ear mark of a team builder**
- There are **many (senders')** people that **financially support and make a way** for the goers/doers to do the work that God is calling them to do.
- The king became a partner as a **financial sender** and will get the same reward in **heaven as the goer.**

V6 The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "**How long will you be gone?** **When will you return?**" After I told him

how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

- Gods plans are accomplished by people.
- God works through prayerful planning.
- God also accomplishes His will outside of our planning.
- But in every case, God works through planning - if not our planning, then His planning.

Psa 33:11 NLT But the **LORD's plans** **stand firm forever**; his intentions can never be shaken.

Pro 21:5 NLT **Good planning and hard work** lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

- You have heard it said that **poor planning promotes** a poor performance.
- If God has given **you a ministry** to be a steward of. do not forget it is **a privilege** to serve the king of kings!
- set your heart **to prepare/plan** and then **praise him** for the results

Section #3

V7-8 a man with provision

V7 I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

V8 And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself." And the king granted

these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

- **Sorry a few more things on planning**

1. Nehemiah **has never seen this project**, but the 40 days of **prayer** gave **him the vision**.

2. **he knew** what needed to be done **without seeing it** for himself

3. he knew **how long** he needed to be **gone**

4. he knew he needed **letters for safe passage**

5. he knew he needed permission to gather the materials

6. He wisely invited the king to participate with the plan God gave him.

7. The spirit of God that gave him the vision also gave him boldness to ask for what was needed.

Section #4

V9-10 A man with protection

V9 When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I

delivered the king's letters to them. The king, **I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me.**

- Godly leadership plans and then puts it into action, so he jumped on the then commuter train for 800 miles.
- **Lets review how we got here.....**
- Started with a God sized burden
- Followed by Desperate Prayer
- He Received a Vision from God
- He was Empowered by Spirit filled planning.
- Faith to move forward

Notice the next event in our text once you follow thru with Gods plan

V10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, **they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel.**

That's right you guessed it or you read ahead, Opposition from spiritual enemies

- The opposition **did not appear** until he put the **plan into action.**

- **Remember** the **enemy** wants you just to **survive or even less**
- The **enemy wants** you Live in **fear**
worry, stress and beaten down so when
we begin to re-build expect **opposition**

Section #5

V11-18 A man with a heart for Gods plan

V11 So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later,

- He arrived, but he did **not move for 3** days from **the secret place**

- a quick quote from Alan Redpath

"It is good to have Christian friends, but it is dangerous to wear your heart on your sleeve. Have a secret place somewhere which nobody knows anything about but you and God."

- Here are the **ingredients for searching out Gods plan.**
 1. praying
 2. waiting
 3. patience

4. timing

V12 I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding.

- Nehemiah **went out counterclockwise** and **circled** the perimeter to study / **survey** the broken-down walls and burned gates
- Nehemiah still **has not spoken to anyone** about his burden for the

broken-hearted people living in fear,
worry, insecurity and reproach

V13 After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to **inspect the broken walls and burned gates.**

- The **word inspect in v13** is a medical term for **probing a wound** to see the extent of the damage.

V14 Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble.

- We cannot always play the **glad game....**
But we **cannot deceive ourselves** to think God has given us a spiritual gift of pointing out only the wrong we see.
- **Facts are facts** in business, home, relationships in the church we just can't look at **what is pretty all the time either**
- **So Balance** is the key **word** here

Pro 25:28 NLT A person without **self-control** is like a city with broken-down walls.

V15 So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate.

- It was still dark but he could still probe the wound because he had a broken heart for the people.
- He also needed to get a pulse on the cost, timeline, manpower and most important, the leadership needed to complete the task.

V16 The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders--the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration.

- He had the **passion**
- He the had the **right heart**
- He has the **vision**
- He has the **faith**

- But he has **not told a soul** until this moment.

V17 But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble **we are in.** Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. **Let us rebuild** the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!"

- **Good leaders** build **great teams** and there is no (I) in team.

- He went to the leaders already in place and offered them the opportunity to join in the work
- He did not bark orders or cast blame of the current condition he offered hope (lets rebuild and end this disgrace)

V18 Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

- Now its time to share the testimony of Gods work in his life

- It started with the message of the condition of the walls from his brothers

- His broken heart for the people

Sat down, prayed, mourned

- 40 days of prayer

Nation family personal confession

- Favor from the king

How can I help you ?

- Provision from the king

Letters materials

- Protection from the king

- Every **step of Gods plan** counts and also is a **vital part** of our **testimony**.
- God does not **wast a season or a trial** or a heartache.

Section # 6

V19-20 A man with Gods power & perseverance

V19 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they

scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"
they asked.

- All I know is that once it is clear who the enemies are you don't have to get them any details because their hearts are not right.
- It is much like casting your pearls before swine

The king who the enemy thought was being in rebelled against actually.....

- Joined Nehemiah and sent him personally

- Gave him **safe passage**

- **Provided** the resources and materials

- **Awarded** him a **paid** leave **of absence**

- Provided him **personal military protection**

- There are **always people** that **oppose** the work of God

- They undermine the foundation of the work with doubt
- They Sidetrack the workers with discouragement
- They mix up wheelbarrows full of discord
- So, Nehemiah's response boldly comes from his confidence in God.

V20 I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start

rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem."

- Because **God gave him the burden**
- Because God **turned the heart** of the **king before his own eyes.**
- He could boldly say now that **God will finish** the work.

V20b I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. **But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.**"

- The people that **oppose** the work of God will miss out on the **blessing from God**
- They will **miss out** on **Seeing the power** of God
- They miss out enjoying **fellowship with God and fellowship with other believers** celebrating the victory from God
- **Gods work** will always come to pass, and no opposing enemies **or the gates of hell will prevail.**

Lets Pray

