

It's Time to Seize the Moment

Nehemiah 2

Did you see the story about the big crowd of people who showed up to tour an old, [abandoned nuclear reactor in rural Northwest Arkansas](#)? Yep. A big crowd of people were dying to get in...

Nuclear reactors are filled with potential energy. It's not hurting anyone or doing any damage to anything, apparently. I believe that the church today is similar. We're **filled with potential** but we're not a threat. We're not doing enough damage to the gates of hell yet.

YOU have the potential to be **like Jesus** and your story can **change a life!** But chances are, you probably don't believe that. I want us to be inspired by Nehemiah's example...

Nehemiah 2

1 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. **2** 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,** **3** 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." **4** The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, **5** 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." **6** 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. **7** 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. **8** 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...** **18** 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.

1. The abundant life Jesus promised lies before you, ready to be lived!

2. The biggest barrier between you and your breakthrough is... YOU!

"... Then I was terrified!"

- Unconfessed sin has you crippled (remember last week's point about repentance?)
- Unfounded fears have you caged.

3. Breakthrough starts to happen when we overcome our fear with faith.

Nehemiah **ASKS!**

Luke 11:9-10 NLT

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

And he didn't just ask, he **asked some more!**

4. While you're waiting on God to fix it all, God is waiting on you to get started! You're going to be part of your own breakthrough.

Nehemiah heads out, confronts enemies, surveys the land, casts the vision, and rallies the people. He was a busy guy!

You need to **pray**, yes. And you also need to **act!**

Now, *what* is it that you believe God is calling you to **DO** in response to what he is willing to do in, around, and through you?