
SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 2: 1-10

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, 2 so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, 3 but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

4 The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

7 I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

9 So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

- 1. Clearly defined mission.**
- 2. Clearly defined next step.**
- 3. Be prepared to face opposition as you take that first step.**

Two questions:

- 1. What is it that the Lord is calling me to?**
- 2. What is the first step that I need to take?**

GROUP DISCUSSION

What was Nehemiah's vision and mission for his life?

How is Nehemiah's story bolstering your faith?

What is God leading you to do? What is the mission/burden that the Lord has given you? Are you able to state it clearly?

We are a church that wants to see all generations go, tell, and show the Love of God in the community of Rockford and around the world. How do you see your life matching up to that?

What is the Lord calling you to do?

What is the first step you need to take?

How can our group pray for you as you step out in faith to accomplish the mission God has given you?