

Small Group Questions - Nehemiah 2:1-10

Key Textual Notes:

- ⇒ Rebuilding the gates and walls of Jerusalem was a daunting God-sized venture because:
 - The walls/gates had been broken down and in disrepair for 140 years.
 - An earlier attempt to rebuild the walls under King Artaxerxes was halted when the surrounding people lodged a letter of protest to the king.
 - The task was a huge project requiring considerable resources & manpower.
 - Jerusalem was 900 miles away and it took up to four months to get there.
- ⇒ Nehemiah was so burdened over the state of his people in Jerusalem that he prayed and fasted for four months.
- ⇒ Through prayer, Nehemiah felt impressed that he was the one to lead the charge to rebuild the walls/gates of Jerusalem.
- ⇒ Nehemiah's position as cupbearer gave him special access to King Artaxerxes.
- ⇒ Nehemiah's choice to let his sorrow be known to the king was a very risky proposition—he was putting his life on the line.
- ⇒ Nehemiah courageously asked the king to:
 - Allow him time away to lead the rebuilding project.
 - To give him letters to the governors of Artaxerxes to allow him safe conduct to Judah.
 - To receive timber for the project from Asaph, keeper of the royal park.
- ⇒ Not only did the king grant all of Nehemiah's requests; he also went above and beyond by supplying an army to accompany him.
- ⇒ When Nehemiah arrived in Judah and made his intentions known, he immediately began to receive opposition from two powerful local officials, Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite.

Bible Exploration Questions:

Read (or have group members read) Nehemiah chapter 2:1-10 out loud as a group. Then ask the following questions as time allows. Skip questions as needed to ensure that you allow time for the application and action questions.

1. How important was prayer to the success of Nehemiah's venture, in your opinion?
2. What impresses you about how Nehemiah handled this encounter with the king?
3. What emotions do you think Nehemiah experienced throughout the events in this passage?
4. Why do you think Nehemiah began to experience opposition when he arrived in Judah?

Application Questions

1. In the sermon, it was revealed that Nehemiah employed a four-step process to address the God-sized venture that was before him: Pray, Plan, Ask, and Act. When you face a significant venture, which of these four steps is most challenging to you personally?
2. What great venture in your life do feel burdened for right now? (This could be almost any significant undertaking in your life)
3. How can the four-step process help you in the venture for which you are burdened? Is there one step that you need to focus on right now?
4. What opposition do you anticipate (or are already experiencing)?

Action Question

1. What will you do this week to make progress on your great venture? (If you don't have one, you could pray for God to give you a burden for one)