

'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

Message 4 - 'Preparing for Success' **Nehemiah 2: 9 - 20**



Nehemiah was an excellent leader who prepared for success. He did this in a number of different ways as follows:

1. Prepared Himself – Nehemiah did not rush into the work straight away, rather he prepared himself. The journey to Jerusalem itself is a preparation as Nehemiah has to deal with a number of sensitive situations. His arrival was discreet and not many people noticed him, yet he certainly took notice of the people. He waits three days before taking any explicit action. We saw how that God is preparing us for the work He would have us do, and as we continue in the journey, the different experiences, trials, difficulties we face, by His grace mould us further into the people He wants us to be, if we rest in Him. It is also true that a wise leader never rushes into action, but waits for the right timing, God's timing.

2. Planned a Strategy – Nehemiah inspects the walls by night, and keeps his counsel until the appropriate time. This is to prevent the enemy from gaining knowledge of his plans. He faces the facts, and even though there are problems, Nehemiah is a good leader, he sees the potential amongst the problems. He surveyed the situation, planned and strategy and committed it to the Lord before revealing it to the people. We need to be 'wise as serpents' as we plan and build the Lord's cause here. The enemy is waiting to attack, but just as Nehemiah had all the materials he needed, so the Christian, and more importantly the Church, has all the heavenly resources they will ever need to build a lasting work.

3. Presents it To the People – After preparing and planning, Nehemiah knows it is the right time to present it to the people, what God has laid on his heart. He speaks of the 'good hand of God upon him', and testifies to God's grace and sovereignty that has led him thus far. He raises an Ebenezer, 'thus far the Lord has helped me'. He inspires the people by pointing them to the great and awesome God of heaven and encourages them that He will prosper their work as it is for His glory. Even though Nehemiah is surrounded by enemies, he knows that the God who is for them is far greater than the enemy who stands against. The people respond by saying 'let us rise and build'. We must look to the God of all grace to be the source and power of the work here, we cannot do it without Him. It is my job to inspire you with thoughts of Him, to encourage you in the work, so that together we will rise up and build, encouraging each other in the way, until the day of completion when we will forever be with the Lord!



Penzance Baptist Church
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs