



Compelled To Move Nehemiah 2:1-8

Review

- Open your eyes to the problems in our city.
- Allow God to move in you first.

“Laying the matter to heart, he did not begin to speak with other people about what they would do, nor did he draw a wonderful scheme about what might be done if so many thousand people joined the enterprise; but it occurred to him that he would do something himself.” - **Charles Spurgeon**

- Then he prays. Worships God, remembering all his great works. Confessing individual and corporate sin. And asking God to hear him.
- **“Give me power and favor to do the very thing you have put on my heart.”**

Nehemiah 2:1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

- Chislev was the Winter months, Nisan was in the Spring. Probably waiting 4 months or more after he heard the news. What kind of life had he been living?
- Nisan first month in the New Year. Perhaps a feast for the new year. Nehemiah had definitely been around the king. But waiting for the right time.
- He'd been praying, fasting. Hearing from God. He just prayed at the end of chapter 1 for favor in front of the King -- **give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.**
- His actions of service had built a trust . He has access and trust because of his years of service. Maybe been serving for years. (Up to 20).
- This playing out on my own life -- SCCC. How will I get there?? God is at work.
- Everything you do can be service to God. The mundane things--the simple obedience, the daily respect and honor to those above you, sweeping floors, simple resistance to sexual temptation. Serving well where you are.
- Joseph--left for dead, slave, put in prison (pit, really). All this over many years. What happens?

Genesis 41: 38-41 38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?”^ε 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you

all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. **40** You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command.^g Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” **41** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”

2 And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. **3** I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

- Sadness could equal death for Nehemiah. A sad face reveals the king's rule. Understand what this “stand” of his may cost. This is a dangerous stand he is taking. (Then I was very much afraid)
- Combat vets will tell you courage is not absence of fear.
- This King had history with Jerusalem--had stopped the rebuilding of these very walls (Ezra 4) due to the danger of uprising in a rebuilt Jerusalem. Then in the 7th year of his reign, writes another letter allowing Ezra to go back.
- Nehemiah is asking the king to reverse his earlier decision.
- Nehemiah goes overboard in his honor of this pagan king.
- They have a relationship--Nehemiah knows the king, and vice versa.

4 Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.”

- Continuous prayer. And quick prayers. Nehemiah is a Pray-er. (11 of 13 chapters)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- Humility. Calling on his years of faithful, loyal service. Loyal service pays off. That IS the will of God.
- And then the boldness. Driven by God, he asks for what he needs.
- Missionary training book--don't ask for \$100 when you need \$100k.
- He asks boldly because the call is now personal -- “that I may rebuild it.”

6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

- God moving in Nehemiah's heart, but also on Artaxerxe's heart.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He will.

7 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,

8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

- Asks for specific things. He needs authority!
- This is the good wood. From the king's forest. Not just common wood.

- And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

What do we see in Nehemiah?

- Man of prayer, continuously.
- Man of repentance, both individually and corporately.
- Man of remembrance of what God has done in the past.
- Man of faith in God's keeping of His covenants.
- Man of deep dependence on God.
- Man of tact and loyalty to those above him.
- Man of courage and boldness.
- Man of action.