

Leadership Qualities (Nehemiah 1:1-2:10)

Nehemiah was... (vs. 1,11)

1. A Jew
2. The Cupbearer (it was the most trusted position in the Kingdom).
3. A captive in a foreign land

Jerusalem's problem (vs. 2-3)

The gates are burned and the walls broken down!!!

Why were Ancient Walls so important:

1. Protection
2. Strength of the people
3. No outside interference

Nehemiah's response (vs. 4-11)

1. Went to God first
2. Got personally involved
3. Clear recognition of the problem
4. He met the need

Nehemiah's prayer involved:

1. Praise
2. Confession
3. Promise
4. Petition

What was the promise that God had given to the nation of Israel?

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Nehemiah's problem

1. "Sad countenance" was a crime punishable by death.
2. It was forbidden by law to rebuild the walls (Ezra 4:17-22).
3. His "speech" to the King was not prepared. He could be executed for asking to rebuild the walls.

Nehemiah chapter 2:

Was Nehemiah prepared for his speech to the King (vs. 2)?

The King noticed that he was sad. Nehemiah did not approach the King with his request, rather the King confronted Nehemiah.

Why was Nehemiah afraid (vs. 2)?

To be sad in the presence of the King was a crime punishable by death. This is a good illustration of how much power the King had.

In verse 4, what did Nehemiah do in the middle of his conversation to the King? What does this say about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah was a godly man who prayed. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to pray without ceasing. This is a great example!

What can we apply to our lives from this verse?

We need to pray at all times! We need continual help from the Lord to do what is right and say what is right!

In verses 5-8 we see that the King approved Nehemiah's request. Did Nehemiah have a plan of what he wanted to do? What does this show about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah already knew what he wanted to do! He not only had a burden in his heart for the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem but he had a wise plan to carry it out.

Do you have any spiritual tasks that God is calling you to do? What things does God call all believers to do? Do you have anything specific that you are not doing that you know God wants you to do?

If God wants us to do something, it will always be according to His Will and we will never be in conflict with scripture. Here is a list of some scriptures of things that God wants us to do; Ephesians 4:22-24,, Romans 6:4-12, Romans 12:9-21, 1 John 2:15-17, 3:16-18, 5:3-5. Truly consider these questions with prayer and make sure that your answers are alligned with His Word and Will. It may not be the first thing that comes to mind that is the area that needs the most work!

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Application:

Develop a godly concern for the walls in your life

His concern began as a burden in his heart, placed there by God. Express direct prayer for guidance (direction)

Face the situation honestly (explain the importance of planning & prayer)

Recognize we can not do anything on our own (Philippians 4:13)

Pray for help where there is sin & have a plan to remove that sin

Be consistent (follow through on God's direction and according to His Word).

Pray always!!!