

Unstoppable

Nehemiah, part 2

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Exegetical Idea: Nehemiah was successful in rebuilding the wall and gates of Jerusalem because he was able to inspire the Jews to join hands with him.

Homiletical Idea: The gospel commission will be accomplished when members of the local churches join hands with the pastors.

Purpose Statement: Inspire members to be involved in the mission of the local church, specially as we approach the nominating committee.

1. After Nehemiah had prayed a lot for God's help, felt the burden to work for God, and having the confirmation of God's leading through providential leading, it was time for him to act for God.
 - a. True faith always leads to obedience to God's will.
 - i. "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:17
 - ii. "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark..." Hebrews 11:7
 - b. Prayer must be combined with understanding God's will, planing and acting upon it.
 - c. If the only thing that we do is pray, we will eventually cease to pray.

"He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine. When men take themselves out of social life, away from the sphere of Christian duty and cross bearing; when they cease to work earnestly for the Master, who worked earnestly for them, they lose the subject matter of prayer and have no incentive to devotion. Their prayers become personal and selfish. They cannot pray in regard to the wants of humanity or the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom, pleading for strength wherewith to work." *Steps to Christ*, p. 101

2. **What were the steps that Nehemiah took while he waited on God for confirmation?**
 - a. We may think that Nehemiah did nothing besides praying until God moved upon the heart of the king because the Bible does not say anything in between.
 - i. However, when Nehemiah is put on the spot we realize that he had done a lot of planing on how to accomplish the mission.
 - ii. Remember, he did not have time to think. He prayed for the Lord to bless him in regards to what he should say, but remember "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."
 - b. Nehemiah 2:5-8 – **Nehemiah presents 7 specific requests to the king that shows that he had a clear vision and plan** (that's what God was doing during the 4 months of prayer):
 - i. **Nehemiah 2:5 – "send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."**

- ii. Nehemiah 2:6 – **“I set him a time.”**
 - iii. Nehemiah 2:7 – **“let letters be given to me** for the governors of the region beyond the River.”
 - iv. Nehemiah 2:8 – “timber to make beams **for the gate of the citadel... , for the city wall,** and for **the house that I will occupy.**” (Nehemiah’s personal house was placed last in his priorities—the work of God was in first place)

- 3. When God calls someone, this individual begins to think on solutions for the obstacles that are on the way.
 - a. His frame of mind changes, and he sees the obstacles as an opportunity for God to reveal His power.
 - b. **“Elisha prayed, and said, ‘Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” 2 Kings 6:17**
 - i. It was not because the servant was faithless or unfaithful, but he had not had that kind of experience before.
 - ii. Some today are fearful because they have not had this kind of experience with God.
 - c. This frame of mind is important to accomplish God’s work.
 - i. People that only look to the obstacles as a reason not to move forward needs to learn from Nehemiah’s example.

- 4. Though his vision and mission was clear, Nehemiah needed to assess the situation before finalizing his plan.
 - a. Nehemiah travels to Jerusalem and gets acquainted with the situation before finalizing the plans.
 - b. Nehemiah 2:13 – He chooses to stay informed, and he evaluates the situation on his own before starting the work.

“Careful consideration and well-matured plans are as essential to the carrying forward of sacred enterprises today as in the time of the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls.” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 633

- 5. Nehemiah efficiently communicates his vision.
 - a. Nehemiah 2:17 – He casts the vision.
 - i. **Each department of the local church should have a vision on how to win souls for Jesus.**
 - b. Nehemiah 2:18 – He shares his personal testimony to inspire people to have confidence in God.
 - i. We cannot do this work by ourselves. All should be involved.

“Nehemiah's whole soul was in the enterprise he had undertaken. His hope, his energy, his enthusiasm, his determination, were contagious, inspiring others with the same high courage and lofty purpose. Each man became a Nehemiah in his turn and helped to make stronger the heart and hand of his neighbor.” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 638

“The Hebrew text points to the inclusive nature of the action (come and let us build”). This is not a lone leader trying to move a mountain, but a visionary leader who is capable of communicating his vision and involving others in his action.” *Andrews Study Bible*, p. 596

6. In chapter 3 describes the 40 divisions that were made to rebuild the wall.
 - a. The number 40 symbolize trials and temptation. A test to the faith of the Jews.
 - b. Nehemiah 3:1 – The community were inspired by the commitment of the priests and levites.
 - i. When the leaders are committed they inspire others to be committed as well.
 - ii. In the last days the work will be finished when the members join hands with the pastors.

“God has given to ‘every man his work.’ He has not left the spiritual interests of the church wholly in the hands of the minister... Everyone who is a true soldier in the army of the Lord will be an earnest, sincere, efficient worker, laboring to advance interests of Christ’s kingdom... Many members of the church have been deprived of the experience which they should have had, because the sentiment has prevailed that the minister should do all the work and bear all the burdens.” *The Duty of the Minister and the People, The Review and Herald*, July 9, 1895

- c. Nehemiah 3:5 – The work was not supported by the leadership of Tekoa.

“There were a few, the Tekoite nobles, who ‘put not their necks to the work of their Lord.’ The memory of these slothful servants is branded with shame and has been handed down as a warning to all future generations. In every religious movement there are some who, while they cannot deny that the cause is God's, still hold themselves aloof, **refusing to make any effort to help.**” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 638, 639

- d. Nehemiah 3:10 – “Some sections were assigned to those living closest to the particular wall section (vv. 22-23), thus guaranteeing high motivation for finishing the project.” *Andrews Study Bible*, p. 596
 - e. Nehemiah 3:12 – The involvement of women in this important project underlines the commitment of the entire community and its leaders.
 - a. The entire family should be involved in the mission.

Present the Master Plan of Evangelism – Include needs of the church

Conclusion: The success of the mission depends on

1. Persistent prayer

2. A clear vision
3. Organized planing
4. Model servant leadership
5. Inspiring people to serve
6. Decisive action
7. Excellency in service

“Growing disciples, sharing hope and serving our community.”

“Every member powerfully impacting our community through service, outreach and discipleship.”