

Nehemiah – A Wanted Man

Bad news from Jerusalem

(Neh.1:1-3)

- Great distress
- Great reproach
- Wall broken down
- Gates burned

Persia to Jerusalem (Nehemiah, 444 BC)



I. Interest in God's Cause, God's People, 1:1-4

Far from Jerusalem in distance...

- Nehemiah had 'arrived'
- Temptation: forget 'little' people [Gn.40:23]

Do we share Nehemiah's interests?

1 Th.1:8, busy working...

Excuses on demand –

Novices

Not mature

Persecuted

Mk.8:36

I. Interest in God's Cause, God's People, 1:1-4

II. Prayed To Lord For Help, 1:4-2:1

Disaster, 1:2-3

Nehemiah deeply affected (1:4)

- Took it to Lord in prayer – four months!
 - Chislev (1:1) . . . Nisan (2:1)
- 1:11, cupbearer to king (1:6, sins)
- 2:1-2, sad in king's presence [Est.4:2]
- 2:3, situation calls for grief
- 2:4, one last short prayer...
- 2:5-8, heart of servant – help his people

I. Interest in God's Cause, God's People, 1:1-4

II. Prayed To Lord For Help, 1:4-2:1

**III. Sacrificed To Help
His People, 1:11**

Duty of cupbearer (2:1)

- Nehemiah enjoys confidence of king
- Leaves position . . .

DEMOTION!

To build wall

In paramilitary setting

For ungrateful Jews

- Mk.10:...41-45
- Neh.5:14, twelve years... Mk.8:34

I. Interest in God's Cause, God's People, 1:1-4

II. Prayed To Lord For Help, 1:4-2:1

III. Sacrificed To Help His People, 1:11

**IV. Encouraged Others To
Work With Him, 2:11-18**

One man could not do the job alone

- Get involved in the work!

14 ‘For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey . . . **21** His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord’ – Mt.25

One man could not do the job alone

- Get involved in the work!

12 ‘...that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me...’

– Romans 1

14 ‘Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another...’ – Romans 15

32 ‘that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you’

– Romans 15

One man could not do the job alone

- Get involved in the work!

16 ‘...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love’

– Ep.4

One man could not do the job alone

- Get involved in the work!

2 ‘...And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also’ – 2 Tim.2

I. Interest in God's Cause, God's People, 1:1-4

II. Prayed To Lord For Help, 1:4-2:1

III. Sacrificed To Help His People, 1:11

IV. Encouraged Others: Work W. Him, 2:11-18

**V. Finished Work In Spite
Of Difficulties, 2:19-20**

Ridicule, 2:19-20

- ‘You think a wall will stop king of Persia?’
 - 4:1-3 . . . 6

To pray without watching is to **tempt** God.
To watch without praying is to **slight** God.

- 12: wherever they turn, they are there.
- What to do?
 1. Watch and pray, 9. Mt.26:41.
 2. Precaution; protect weak spots, 13.
 3. At stake: all that is dear to you; God is on your side, 14.
 4. Keep working, 15.
 5. Assistance of brothers and God, 19-20.

Ridicule, 2:19-20
Rumors of war, 4:7-11...

Greed, selfishness, 5:1-5

- Lack of brotherly love.
 - Irony:

Babylonian exile:
families were
together

Back at home:
children sold into
slavery

- Nehemiah (5:14)

Ridicule, 2:19-20

Rumors of war, 4:7-11...

Greed, selfishness, 5:1-5

Personal attack, 6:10-14

- Nehemiah's courage did not falter, 6:11
- Nehemiah's trust did not waver, 6:14
 - What is the worse enemies could do?

'So' (6:15)

- In spite of all these difficulties . . .
Jerusalem has its wall
- 2 Tim.4:7