

Nehemiah 2:1-6

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ²so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, ³but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” ⁶Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so, I set a time.

The book of Nehemiah is set against the backdrop of Judgment and Prophetic timing.

- God had judged Judah for its idolatry and rebellion.
- The angel Gabriel had said the prophetic clock would start at the time that a decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem.
- God has a timetable.

“I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever.”
Thomas Jefferson

Tools for the Reconstruction:

- 1. Nehemiah acted with Courageous Abandon.**
- 2. Nehemiah asked with Unbridled Godly Desire.**

1. Nehemiah acted with Courageous Abandon.

- a. Vs. 3** *But I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”*
 - Nehemiah was not UNAFRAID. (vs. 2 I was very much afraid)

2. Nehemiah asked with Unbridled Godly Desire.

- a. Vs. 4** *The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”*
 - Nehemiah enshrouded his actions in prayer.
 - God’s favor was upon Nehemiah and is irreplaceable.

Small Group Questions:

1. The book of Nehemiah illustrates that God is involved in human history and judges nations. Do you think He still does that today and how might He do it?
2. Nehemiah acted with courage before the king. How important is courage when it comes to living a life of faith. How do we display it?
3. Nehemiah was not unafraid, rather he overcame fear. Is fear an issue for you and if so, how might you gain the tools to overcome it?
4. Nehemiah was a man of prayer, and he prayed a micro prayer in the moment he requested of the king. Describe your prayer life.
5. Nehemiah asked of God with unbridled desire.