

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

30 July – 3 August 2007

NEHEMIAH: MAN OF PRAYER & ACTION!

#2 PREPARATION AND A BOLD REQUEST

INTRODUCTION

- Share an example where God answered your ‘quickie’ (very short) prayer’?

TRAINING OBJECTIVE To discuss the importance of preparation, prayer, and boldness in tackling any important task for God.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Nehemiah 2:1-10

- Nehemiah’s prayer (1:11) seems to indicate he will take immediate action, but chapter two is dated four months later. What does this teach us about Nehemiah? About God?
- Why was Nehemiah afraid prior to addressing the king (verse 2)?
- How did he deal with his fear? What can we learn from his example?
- The king’s question (verse 4) was the open door Nehemiah had been praying for (see 1:11). What does his “quickie prayer” indicate about his prayer life?
- Nehemiah’s confident requests indicate that he had not only prayed about this need, but had thought much about the project and planned it out. What do you see to support this?
- What opposition is encountered from those who had settled in the area when the Jews were taken into captivity 90 years before? (verses 10, 19)

Read Nehemiah 2:11-20

- Whose plan was it to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem? How is it to be realized?
- What was Nehemiah’s first step? Why does he do it alone, and at night?
- How does Nehemiah motivate the Jewish officials to rebuild? (note the plural pronouns)
- And how do the people respond?
- Why could Nehemiah be so confident of success?
- What leadership principles do we see Nehemiah exhibit throughout chapter 2?
- Which of these principles especially resonate with you? Why?

APPLICATION

- Is there something you’re praying about and waiting for God’s timing? What preparation and planning can you be doing during this time?
- All of us are involved in motivating – ourselves, our family, our co-workers. What’s one insight into motivating people you can apply from this lesson?

There are plenty of “impossible” situations out there in our personal lives, and in our culture that many would say are beyond the powers of people like us to change. But God’s word reminds us today that he uses people like us to partner with his unlimited power and resources to bring change. In the words of the Lord’s prayer, “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

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