

BUILDING TO HONOR GOD ~ Nehemiah 2-3

→Scripture Reading - Neh. 2:8-9, 11-12, 7-18

NEHEMIAH'S REQUEST ~ Nehemiah 2:1-8

[1] 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; [2] so 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, [3] but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" [4] The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, [5] and 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." [6] Then 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. [7] I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? [8] And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.

APPLICATION

ARROW Prayer = is a prayer that is shot up in an instant (in the middle of the situation)

→We need to be so familiar with Prayer that we can do it Anywhere at Anytime

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Be joyful always; [17] pray continually; [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- **Devote** - Focus on Prayer
- **Be Watchful** - Alert and Vigilant
- **Continually** - at ALL times
- **Give Thanks** - in ALL Circumstances

Prayer Should Include ...

- **Private Prayer**- time spent alone with God.
- **Group Prayer** - with other believers.
- **Continual Prayer**- an attitude of prayer all day long
- **ARROW Prayer** - fired off instantly at the time of need

NEHEMIAH SURVEYS THE WALL ~ Nehemiah 2:9-20

[9] So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. [10] When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites. [11] I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days [12] I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

[17] Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." [18] I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

[19] But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" [20] I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

APPLICATION

COOPERATION, WORKING TOGETHER ~ Nehemiah 3:1-2,5,

[1] Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. [2] The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

[5] The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their NOBLES would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

[20] Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

SO WHAT ??

Romans 2:23-24 *You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the Scriptures say, "The world blasphemes the name of God because of you." (NLT)*

Titus 2:9-10 (NASU) *Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, [10] not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.*

Titus 2:10 (NLT) *...they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.*

We Can Make God Look Good by...

- developing a Heart that says to God - do in my Life whatever makes You look like God
- refusing to Make Demands - but asking God to do what makes Him Look Like good
- asking God to Show His Greatness - not just take away our pain or meet our needs