

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."

Nehemiah 2:1-5

The Question:

- ✓ Have we become accustomed to _____ life happen rather than living it?

The Challenge:

- ✓ God calls us to live a life bigger than _____!

The Reality:

- ✓ Without _____ it is impossible to follow God's agenda!
 - What is adventure without risk?

Nehemiah was a man whose commitment to God was more than mere _____. He responded to the challenge that God was inviting him into a great adventure. By faith he took a risk and set a series of problem solving acts into motion in order to see the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt and the great Name of Yahweh exalted to its proper place.

The lessons that shaped Nehemiah's life can transform ours as well.

- 1) True _____ comes from "the God of Heaven".

*Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3

Leadership by Faith

February 21, 2010

- 2) God's timing is often not _____ timing.
 - a. God is eager for us to discover the treasures in heaven's _____ room.
 - b. Don't run ahead of God. The treasures of heaven don't arrive before he does! (*read Joshua 9*)
- 3) We cannot _____ people!
 - a. Only God can change a person's heart.

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD;
he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

Proverbs 21:1

- ✓ Talk to _____ about people
- ✓ Talk to God about problems

- 4) Faith/Courage is not the absence of _____ but the absence of self. Faith confidently pursues God's agenda in spite of fear, believing the sovereign Lord will accomplish his purposes.

"Then I prayed to the God of heaven..." *Nehemiah 2:5*

"The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding..." *Nehemiah 2:20*

- 5) Don't be afraid to ask for what _____ wants!
 - ✓ Be prepared
 - ✓ Be tactful
 - ✓ Be _____
 - ✓ Be bold
- 6) Don't forget the _____ connection
 - ✓ Solving problems requires understanding the realities that contribute to those problems.
 - observe—ask—listen— _____.