

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Honor: Nehemiah 2:1-20

1. Read Nehemiah 2:1-3. How much time has passed since Nehemiah heard the news of Jerusalem in Chapter 1? Why does the king become concerned about and how does Nehemiah respond to his concern? What does this reveal about Nehemiah's normal attitude and what does it reveal about the king's view of Nehemiah?
2. Read Nehemiah 2:4-6 with Nehemiah 1:11. How does the king respond to Nehemiah's explanation of his sadness? What is Nehemiah's response to the king's question? Why do you think the king answered the way he did? How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer in 1:11?
3. Read Psalm 34:17, Jeremiah 29:12, John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and James 5:16. What does Nehemiah's experience and these verses teach you about prayer? How have you seen God work through prayer in your life? How can you apply these verses to your prayer life?
4. Read Nehemiah 2:7-8 with Ezra 8:22. What additional requests does Nehemiah make of the king and how does the king respond? How is this different from Ezra when he came before the same king? What do they both recognize is the key to their success?
5. Read Nehemiah 2:9-10. What did Nehemiah do when he arrived in Judah? Who becomes disturbed about Nehemiah's presence and the letters he brings and why? What does their reaction tell you about Israel's leaders before Nehemiah's arrival?
6. Read Nehemiah 2:11-16. What does Nehemiah do once he arrives in Jerusalem? When does he do it and who does he take with him? Why do you think Nehemiah didn't tell anyone what he was doing?
7. Read Nehemiah 2:17-18 with 1 Samuel 17:20-26. After his inspection of the city what conditions does Nehemiah describe to the Jewish leaders and what does he suggest they do about it? What is the primary reason he gives for taking action and how is this similar for David's reason for opposing Goliath? How does Nehemiah encourage them to rise to the challenge, and how do they respond?
8. Read Nehemiah 2:10, & 19-20 with Ezra 4:1-5. What is the reaction of the men from verse 10 towards the Jews? What do they accuse the Jews of preparing for and how does Nehemiah answer them? How is this similar to the opposition in Ezra? What do you think allowed Nehemiah to respond to the opposition in the way that he did?
9. What was Nehemiah's main reason for taking action? What do you learn about leadership from this chapter? What can you apply to your life this week to follow Nehemiah's example?