

Confidence in God

Nehemiah 2:1-20

Patience

- “In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes.” (1a)
- Its been 4 months since his prayer in chapter 1
- 1:11- Give your servant success “Today”
- How many times have you prayed for something and it has taken longer than you hoped?

Passion

- “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, so the king answered me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” (v. 1b-2)
- He wept because it was God’s name that was being dishonored
- Do we grieve for God’s honor?
- “It’s the trauma of one who has made God’s cause his own and who sees it scorned. There is a spirit today that passes for broadmindedness and tolerance but is really indifference to the hastening of God’s kingdom in the world.” Gordon McConville

Prayer

- “I was very much afraid, 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? The king said to me, ‘What is it you want?’ Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 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 ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.’” (v. 2b-5)

Purpose

- “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. 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? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, 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?’” (v. 6-8a)
- “Spontaneous prayer and careful planning can both be a mark of the servant of the Lord.” Hugh Palmer

Perspective

- “And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.” He then goes on to survey the walls—and once he has done that he says this “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.’ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, ‘Let us start rebuilding.’ So they began the good work.”

Perseverance

- “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?’ 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.’” (v. 19-20)

Nehemiah was a man of

- Patience
- Passion
- Prayer
- Purpose
- Perspective
- Perseverance