

Getting the Job Done Nehemiah 1-2

Introduction:

1. The book of Nehemiah has served to inspire leaders and people for centuries.
 - Nehemiah was a Jew, but was a descendant of those Jews that had been taken captive and carried to Babylon. As this book opens, Persia is now the world's superpower and Nehemiah held a high position as cupbearer to the King of Persia.
2. Nehemiah's heart was for his country's once glorious capital city, Jerusalem. A group of Jews had returned and he was anxious to hear how the rebuilding project was going.
 - The news was not good and Nehemiah's heart was broken. 1:3-4
3. Nehemiah's heart was to do something about this tragedy. He was willing to leave the palace, head to Jerusalem, put on some work gloves, and get to work.
4. God opened up the door for Nehemiah and through a phenomenal turn of events, Nehemiah was able to lead a group of Jews to completely rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days. This was absolutely amazing. These people got the job done.
5. In every age, God has a work for His people to do. Today we are to preach the gospel of grace to every person. **Colossians 1:28**
6. As believers in the body of Christ, how can we get the job done? We can learn from Nehemiah and this courageous group of people that were a part of this incredible feat that has inspired people for centuries.

If we are going to get the job done:

It takes hearts full of passion.

1. As I read these first two chapters I am struck by the incredible passion of Nehemiah.
 - To many people, Nehemiah had it made - Easy Street. Serving the king wine in the palace.
 - To some, he may have just looked like the king's gofer, but inside that body was the heart of a passionate leader.
2. When Nehemiah heard about the catastrophic conditions of his homeland, he exhibited great emotion (1:4). He **cared** about the condition of God's city, God's land, and God's people. It mattered to him.
3. O how we need Christians today with a passionate heart to see God's work move forward.
 - **Romans 12:11** commands the church to be, "*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.*"
4. Nehemiah passionately prayed to God about this. 1:5-11
5. When Nehemiah finally arrived on the scene at Jerusalem, he did a survey trip around the city. 2:11-16
 - Nehemiah's heart was burning with passion as he looked at the pitiful surroundings of God's holy city, Jerusalem. 2:12
6. When Nehemiah finally shared his bold vision with the people, I love the way they responded. 2:17-18

- They caught Nehemiah's passion and they cried out, "*Let us rise up and build.*"
7. Today we live in the time of grace. We have a gospel to proclaim to Daytona Beach. God has strategically placed us here on Clyde Morris Blvd., not so we can just play church. We are here to make an impact. We must be passionate about the cause of Christ.
 8. In order to get the job done, it will take passionate leaders and passionate people.

It takes hearts willing to work.

1. In order to get the job done, it would take sacrifice. There was no way around it.
2. Nehemiah couldn't get the job done sitting around the palace. It required that he give up some of his personal comforts. Nehemiah was so concerned about the name of his God, that he was more than willing to leave the palace and travel to Jerusalem.
3. As Nehemiah saw the terrible, broken-down conditions of Jerusalem, he could have become faint-hearted and thought, "This will require too much work. This is ridiculous and impossible. Forget it. I'm heading back to the palace."
4. But Nehemiah went to the people and shared his vision with them. He rolled up his sleeves and says, "I'm going for it, how about you?" I like the end of 2:18.
5. The Bible says that the people responded to Nehemiah by saying, "*Let us rise up and build.*" But look at the end of the verse, "*So they strengthened their hands for this good work.*"
6. You've heard the expression, "Talk is cheap." They didn't say, "Nehemiah, we believe in what you're doing, we're excited, and we'll be praying for you as you work on this."
7. There is another common expression: "Put your money where your mouth is." This is what these people did. They strengthened their hands for the good work they were endeavoring to accomplish. They were willing to **personally** invest in seeing this plan through to completion.
8. Getting the job done in God's work begins with passion, but that passion should drive us to get personally involved in the work of God. We see this balance in **Titus 2:14.**

It takes hearts that will believe God.

1. This book begins with distress. 1:3-4
2. But Nehemiah immediately went to God in prayer and asked God specifically to grant him favor before the king so that he could begin the task of rebuilding Jerusalem. 1:11
 - Again, we see Nehemiah trusting God while he is standing before the king. 2:4
3. When Nehemiah stood before the people of Jerusalem, he rehearsed to them how God had opened up the doors for him to be there. In the face of distress (2:17), the people made a decision to trust God (2:18).
4. Do you think Satan would allow the work of God to be accomplished without opposition?
5. Notice two men in 2:10. These men were filled with the spirit of Satan. It grieved them that Nehemiah had come to help God's people. They wanted to see God's people downtrodden and in distress.

- Let this be a lesson. When Satan wants to oppose the advancement of God's work, do you know what he uses? He always uses people.
6. As soon as the people expressed believing hearts in 2:18, look at the next verse. Immediately, Satan attempted to bring discouragement o God's people. There will always be the Sanballats and Tobiahs of the world. How do you deal with them?
 7. You rebuke them with a total faith and confidence in your God (2:20). Nehemiah wasn't backing down for one minute. He said to those who ridiculed and mocked, "This is the plan; we are trusting God, therefore we, His servants, **will** arise and build."

In Conclusion:

1. And build they did! There was opposition and it wasn't always easy, but Nehemiah and this group of people were victorious. How did they get the job done and become such a testimony?
2. They had hearts full of passion, hearts willing to work, and hearts that believed God.
3. May we take great hope and encouragement from this story as we seek to accomplish God's work today.