

**Nehemiah 2:4,5**  
**SO I PRAYED, AND I SAID**

- I. The occasion.
  - A. The physical condition of Jerusalem indicated to Nehemiah the spiritual condition of the true church in Judah.
    - 1. After receiving the news it seems that Nehemiah could only pray, not being allowed to bring it up to the king.
    - 2. He did not know if God would use him for this work (1:11b), but did know that God would have him faithfully do his duty.
  - B. He waits on the Lord to reverse the condition of the church and to learn whether the Lord would use him.
    - 1. First, while waiting to know if God would want him to be involved, he yet conceived of a plan if God would use him.
    - 2. Second, to wait for the Lord is always a part of our calling.
  - C. While performing his duties as cup-bearer as faithfully as possible, the king perceptively noticed that Nehemiah was sad.
  - D. Nehemiah immediately prayed a soul prayer (4b).
- II. Nehemiah's request of King Artaxerses is to be sent to Judah to build the walls of his fathers' graves.
  - A. But only if it please the king and if he favor's Nehemiah.
  - B. Nehemiah has used the time to give great detail to his request as a diligent and faithful servant ought.
  - C. Nehemiah prayed and worked (careful in his planning and diligent in his responsibilities).
- III. Practical lessons to be learned.
  - A. Live in the spirit of prayer.
  - B. Trust the Lord of the church to care for her.
  - C. See how the Lord answers our prayers beyond what we ask or think, for Artaxerses sent army officers and horsemen too.