

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
FACING THE CHALLENGE
NEHEMIAH 2:11-20

Introduction

The challenge to serve the Lord is always before us as His children!

With that challenge comes a desire for success in the work of the Lord!

Success in the challenges we face does not come by accident, but there are some important ingredients that must be present if we are to succeed!

Why are so many folks accomplishing nothing for the Lord? Why are so many individual Christian's barren in their life?

It could possibly be that they have not applied the lessons which we see in this portion of our study.

Nehemiah had been *sent by the king, secured by the king, and supplied by the king!*

I. IN ORDER TO FACE A CHALLENGE, THERE MUST BE INVESTIGATION! (2:11-16)

A. He Went To Inspect The Need! (vs 11-15)

1. He Went Alone At Night To Look Over The Need.
2. He Did Not Go By "Hear-say" Or Ideas Of Others.
3. He Did Not Listen To The Indifference Of Those Who Lived In The Area And Had Done Nothing About It.
4. He Conferred, Not With Men, But With God.

Galatians 1:15-16—"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood."

Nehemiah was seeking out God's will in this!

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5. In The Course Of The Night:
 - a. He Viewed The Walls.
 - b. He Diagnosed The Need.
 - c. He Surveyed The Situation.

This had to be a sad journey for him—to see the desolation first hand and to know that no one had cared enough at this point to have done anything regarding the walls. No one was moved to action!

6. We Need To Recognize And Know The Spiritual Desolation Around Us Before We Can Ever Adequately Do Anything About It!

We need our hearts stirred about those that are lost!

We need our hearts stirred about the spiritual dearth right here where we are as well as in the rest of the world!

7. We need to sense the heart burden of the Lord for the backslidden, the indifferent, and the depraved around us!

He Went To Inspect The Need...

B. He Kept The Burden To Himself!

1. He Was Looking For God To Lead In His Burden So He Would Know Exactly What To Do!
2. He Was Humbly Seeking The "Heart Touch" Of God About The Needs He Saw!

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3. He Was Not Heralding Any Personal Ambitions In The Flesh!

IN ORDER TO A THE CHALLENGE, THERE MUST BE INVESTIGATION...

II. IN ORDER TO FACE A CHALLENGE, THERE MUST BE COOPERATION! (2:17-18)

There needs to be a unity of burden, of concern, of determination, of ministry, and of the Spirit is important!

A. Nehemiah Called Them In Meekness! (vs 17)

1. **He Did Not Rebuke Them Even Though A Rebuke Was In Order!** (The were, after all, guilty of indifference, unfaithfulness, neglect!)

2. **He Identified Himself With His People!**
He spoke of the "*distress that we are in!*"

3. **He Took No Credit For Himself But Rather He Gave God All The Glory! (Vs 18)**

B. Nehemiah Called Attention To The Need! (vs 17)

1. He was concerned about the reproach upon the Name of God!
2. He brought to their attention the reality of the situation.

C. Nehemiah Called On Them To Cooperate!

1. **He Called For Unity Of Vision And Labor!**
1 Corinthians 3:9—"For we are labourers..."

Matthew 9:37—"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few..."

2. **He Called For Unity Of Burden!**

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3. **They Strengthened Their Hands To The Good Work!**

We should be "*...steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*"

A church united in the power of the Holy Spirit is an unconquerable church."

IN ORDER TO FACE A CHALLENGE THERE NEEDS TO BE AN INVESTIGATION. . . COOPERATION. . .

III. IN ORDER TO FACE A CHALLENGE THERE MUST BE A DETERMINATION! (2:19-20)

This is evident in their willingness to "*rise up and build.*"

A. They Faced Opposition! (vs 19)

Anytime you do the Lord's work you are going to face some opposition.

B. They Believed God! (vs 20)

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Nehemiah had utter confidence and assurance that God would intervene! This was God's work and not a mere man's work!

God's work must be entered into as God's work and must be done as God's work!

1 John 4:4—"Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world."

They were doing the Lord's business!

The enemy had no portion, right, or privileges in anything God was doing!

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So, Nehemiah spoke boldly and courageously with authority against the enemy!

We must have such boldness and determination today!

Conclusion

In Order To Face A Challenge There Must Be These Three Things:

Investigation, Cooperation, and Determination