

Message Notes

March 27, 2011



“ A Man of Intentional Prayer”

Studies in Nehemiah—Part 1

Introduction: 444 BC & 586 BC (142 yrs earlier) Babylonian Captivity

Nehemiah is a model for us:

As he _____ intentionally (1:3-7)

¹ *The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.* Nehemiah 1:1-2 (NIV)

WHAT PART OF GOD’S KINGDOM WORK ARE YOU BURDENED FOR?

² *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.* James 4:2 (NIV)

“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. Nehemiah 1:5-7 (NIV)

As he intentionally _____ about his promises (1:8-9)

⁸ *“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’* Nehemiah 1:8-9 (NIV)

Illus: Cape May – Lewis Ferry

¹⁹ *“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁵ *“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’*

Matthew 18:15-16 (NIV)

As he is intentionally _____ and persistent (1:11)

¹¹ *Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man. I was cup bearer to the king.* Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV)

“This man” = King Artaxerxes

¹ *In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, 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, ² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid.* Nehemiah 2:1-2 (NIV)

³ *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?” ⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven... Nehemiah 2:3-4 (NIV)*

As he intentionally offers _____ as the means of answered prayer (2:5)

⁵ *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.”* Nehemiah 2:5 (NIV)

⁷ *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? ⁸ 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?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.* Nehemiah 2:7-8 (NIV)

Illus: Stonewall Jackson

CLOSING:

