

Attention to Detail

Nehemiah 2

Small Group Study, week commencing 13th September 2021.

For Starters

The story is told of the 19th century, American evangelist Dwight L. Moody and a trip on an ocean vessel. A fire broke out, and one of his companions said, "Don't you think we should go and pray?" Moody apparently replied, "You can go and pray, brother, but I am going to man the water buckets!"

What are you more inclined to – prayer or action?

Read

Nehemiah 2.

Context

In chapter 1, Nehemiah, cupbearer to the King of Persia, hears news of the broken-down wall of Jerusalem. His reaction is to weep, mourn, fast and pray (1:4). In chapter 2, his prayers are answered.

Study

Verses 1-10.

1. Nehemiah steps out on a limb for his people. He was clearly very much afraid (verse 2). What did he have to lose? What do you think he had to gain?
2. What evidence is there that Nehemiah was well-prepared for the opportunity to make his request to the king?
3. Nehemiah's attitude and approach pleased the King of Persia and the King of Heaven (verses 5-8). What can we learn from his example?

Verses 11-20.

4. Accompanied by the cavalry, there is no way Nehemiah could have made a quiet entrance. The rumour mill must have been buzzing with his presence. And yet initially he said nothing of his intentions to Jews (verses 12,16). Why? When is it right to keep our own counsel?
5. Why was it important that he conducted his own personal examination of the wall? What problems might this have caused him?
6. Take a closer look at verses 17-18. What strategies did Nehemiah employ to motivate and mobilise the people?

For an additional resource relating to these verses, you might like to watch some or all of the following video that Ian White prepared for Pevensy Bay Baptist Church: [Nehemiah 2](#) (21 minutes).

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Prayer

When we are engaged in God's work, we can expect opposition (verse 19). But if we are doing God's work in God's way, "The God of heaven will give us success" (verse 20).

Pray for yourself, for the wider church, and particularly for your leaders (including, but not limited to, staff and deacons) – for a heart for God's Kingdom, and for prayer and practical skill to carry it out.

Resources

In addition to the Blog posts, all small group studies can also be located in chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources. The Blog posts will continue to be posted on the Sunday preceding the message, but the studies may be available sooner from this page.