



“It’s always too soon to quit.” - V. Raymond Edmond

Jeremiah 1:10, “See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”

INTRODUCTION: God gave a job to Nehemiah. He told him to root out and then plant; and to tear down and build. God called Nehemiah to the job of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and rebuilding a spiritually dead nation, and he did it in 52 days. The fuel that kept Nehemiah going was the greatness of God.

There are 9 times in Nehemiah that the word Great is used in reference to God (1:5, 10; 4:14; 8:6; 9:17; 9:25, 31, 32, 35).

“Strength that knows itself to be strength is weakness, but weakness that knows itself to be weakness is strength.” – Warren Wiersbe

II Corinthians 12:10, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

I. WHEN YOU SEE A GREAT GOD, YOU SEE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

A. NEHEMIAH WAS CONCERNED (NEHEMIAH 1:1-3)

B. NEHEMIAH WAS BURDENED (NEHEMIAH 1:4)

When you become burdened, you won’t be nearly as concerned with what others are doing. Your main concern will be “What is my part in God’s plan? Where can I get involved? What can I improve on?”

II. WHEN YOU SEE A GREAT GOD, YOU PRAY WITH GREAT FAITH (1:5-6)

A. HE PRAYED AS A SERVANT (NEHEMIAH 1:5-6)

B. HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS PART OF THE PROBLEM (1:6-7)

If you want to be part of the answer, you must first recognize yourself as part of the problem.

C. HE TOOK HOLD OF GOD’S ATTRIBUTES AND PROMISES (1:5, 8-10)

“The purpose of prayer is not to get man’s will done in Heaven, but to get God’s will done on earth.” - unknown

John 15:5, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

Isaiah 28:16, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”

III. WHEN YOU SEE A GREAT GOD, YOU OVERCOME GREAT OBSTACLES

“Every church is broken in two parts: Those who see the opportunities and those who see the obstacles.” - unknown

A. NEHEMIAH OVERCAME THE OBSTACLE OF GOVERNMENT

Proverbs 21:1, “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”

I Timothy 2:1-3, “¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;”

B. NEHEMIAH OVERCAME THE OBSTACLE OF UNWILLING FOLLOWERS (NEHEMIAH 2:17)

He is speaking to the unwilling people who let the city become this way. They sat and watched and did nothing.

Hebrews 13:7, “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

C. NEHEMIAH OVERCAME THE OBSTACLE OF NO WORKERS (2:18)

“Everything rises and falls on leadership” – Lee Roberson

God wanted a nation sanctified to Him so He got a hold of Abraham and Sarah.

God wanted to rescue the nation of Israel so He got a hold of Samuel and David.

God wanted to get the gospel to the whole world so He got a hold of 12 disciples.

God is still looking for leaders. So how do we get laborers and leaders? Pray.

Luke 10:2, “Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”