

Small group study

The Book of Nehemiah

Session 2:

Read the Passage:

Nehemiah 2:1-8

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, 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, 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.”

⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

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.

Background on the story

Nehemiah prays and then has a conversation with the king and tells him that his homeland has been destroyed by their enemies. The King then has favor on Nehemiah and gives him all he needs to go back home and rebuild the brokenness and devastation.

Today we are going to look at what Nehemiah's response following the conversation with the king.

Opening Statement

Today's session is how can pray and ask God for favor as we enter into rebuilding things that have been destroyed.

As we jump in into our discussion, we are going to use three thoughts from Nehemiah 2:1-8

Supporting points

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, 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?"

- What do you think the fears were that Nehemiah faced before the king?
- What fears can keep us from moving forward even if we know what to do?

2. Verse 4, The King said to me.... "What do you want"

- Why do you think it was important for Nehemiah to be bold?
- Why do you think detail of what he wanted was important?
- Why is boldness an important part of our faith and why are details in our prayers vital?

Conclusion

In our session what would you say the big take away is?

Close in prayer