

## ***Don't just do - but do it.***

NE 2:1 *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; <sup>2</sup> 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,* <sup>3</sup> *but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"*

NE 2:4 *The king said to me, "What is it you want?"*

*Then I prayed to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."*

NE 2:6 *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.*

NE 2:7 *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? <sup>8</sup> And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, 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 upon me, the king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.*

NE 2:10 *When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.*

NE 2:11 *I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.*

NE 2:13 *By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; <sup>15</sup> so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup> The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.*

NE 2:17 *Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." <sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.*

*They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.*

1. **Afraid yes, but relied on God's favour (Remember last week!!!)**

<sup>2</sup> 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,* <sup>3</sup> but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

Being afraid doesn't give us the right back off from God's will.

2. **Pray and ask.**

NE 2:4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?"

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

This is a bit crazy— Hey, I work for you, I am really your slave but I would like to go a rebuild what your army knocked down. And I'd like you to pay for it.

No wonder he prayed – he thought he was going to meet his maker.

But look at the format. Pray – then ask. The format could be extended – pray then do. Actually, pray then live. Pray should be a prerequisite of life. Bill Hybels book – "Too busy not to pray" explains this concept. If your busy, you flirt with danger if you don't pray. Actually, the busier you are the more you need to pray. I think Martin Luther said something to that effect. "I am busy today, I better spend half of it praying."

Doesn't make time logical sense – but it makes life sense – it works- somehow.

3. **Was there even any doubt.**

NE 2:4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?"

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

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Can you believe this. More than he asked. Actually – we should expect it. **If we are called to God's ministry – we are given the tools needed.** Here's the thing, we have all we need to do God's ministry right now in this church. We don't need more of this or that, we don't need more money it's in your pockets, or more resources, or more people, we have what God thinks we need to do what He wants us to. **If we don't have what we WANT to do with church -it probably isn't what God wants us to do.** More than that to the King and queen – it was a forgone conclusion that He was going, notice when will you be back.

Should we doubt, no but hey we do.

#### **4. Sus it out.**

*NE 2:11 I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.*

If we where in business, and we wanted to do something- we would have to have plans. If we wanted to build something – we would have to sus it out, check out with the council and the builders work out what was going to work.

Strangely enough, when we at churches decide to do things – we just assume they will happen. Little planning, little effort, the Lord will provide, the Lord will do the work. And we wonder why we don't see huge results.

Nehemiah sussed out the situation, He had a look around. Didn't make a fuss, but started to set in His mind what had to happen.

We have a responsibility to investigate our areas of ministry to become experts in our ministry area.

If you work in youth group – you are to be experts in your kids. I'm not, I don't go to youth group – You do. Same with girls brigade, the leaders are experts in how Girls brigade happens.

Same with bible studies, you are experts in how to best communicate God's truths to those people. Maybe not the most educated theologians, but the most knowledgeable about how to communicate to your people.

If we aren't- we should be working at it.

#### **5. Do it.**

*NE 2:17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." <sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.*

*They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.*

If there is a job to be done – do it. After praying, after sussing it out, after planning. Do it. Don't take me wrong here – I did not say just do it. I said AFTER praying, sussing it out and planning – THEN do it.