



Pastor Ray Wrinkle

Hand Me Another Brick, Please

Neh 1:1-4

Story – Devil walking into Church, people start running...Everyone leaves except 1 man
Aren't you afraid of me? I've been married to your sister for 40 yrs

History Solomon's Temple was destroyed
 Zerubbabel managed to rebuild the Temple 516BC
 Ezra had been preaching to the people for 13 yrs
 Needed a worker to do a great work

Walls – Represented security, power, protection

Leadership – Rebuilt the walls in 52 days- record time
 Demonstrated a person w/ cause to do right
 They meet great opposition

** Purposed in his heart to “do right” - Enemy tried to stop him

1. COMPASSION

Neh 1:4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven

People were in Need, Despair

 Nehemiah desired to see others Blessed, Lord glorified
 Thoughts were on Heavenly achievements

Fasted and Prayed

 1st answer to any need is Prayer
 Prayer moves the Heart of God

2. CONSULTATION

Neh 1:5 -11 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad

among the nations: But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.

He Talked to God - Earnestly
Honestly

3. COMPANIONS

Neh 2:18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

Nehemiah found crew that WANTED to work, Then they WENT to work
Asked for Volunteers to do a “good work”
12 gates broken down, enemy came in at will - He sought to bring Peace to children

4. CONFRONTATION

a. Satan’s opposition to a work for God

Neh 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

b. Scorned the workers

Neh 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us

c. Scoffed them openly

Neh 4:1-3 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we built the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

d. Sought a plan to hinder them

Neh 4:7-8 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

e. Solicited Nehemiah to stop working

Neh 6:2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

5. CONSIDERATION

Working for the Lord was Nehemiah's greatest purpose
Started in PRAYER, continued in PRAYER

Opposition is Inevitable, It's coming
Enemy has 1 goal – Stop you from serving God

ATTITUDE OF WORKING FOR GOD

Neh 2:18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

Neh 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Neh 6:3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down:

Nehemiah's Response – "Hand me another brick, please"

Opposition to the work is a good indication you are putting bricks in the right place

Story – Gen. Washington – Needed a victory

Don't quit now men

They crossed the Delaware, surprised the enemy – Won the battle

How? They didn't quit in the middle of the work