

Recapturing The Vision

Nehemiah 2:1-10

Introduction: Many of us may begin our Christian journeys as visionaries who look forward to abundant living with grand expectations. However, we soon begin losing our vision because of vision killers like business, brokenness, bitterness and the tyranny of the urgent. During Nehemiah's time, the Jews had lost their vision because people were beat down, walls were broken down and gates were burned down. In chapter 2, after four months of praying and thinking, Nehemiah is able to recapture the vision. He begins by mentioning his occupation by writing,

"I was the king's cupbearer..." Nehemiah 1:11

I. He sees the vision.

And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes,.. Nehemiah 2:1a

... wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Nehemiah 2:1

II. He shares the vision.

Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" Nehemiah 2:2-3

Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:4-5

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (483 years); The street shall be built again, and the wall... Daniel 9:25

III. He supplies the vision.

Then the king said to me ... "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. Nehemiah 2:6

Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me. Nehemiah 2:7-8

Application and Insight: As we try to recapture the vision, there are four things we must do.

A. We must reassess our _____.

The believers at Community value evangelism through discipleship and fellowship, with prayer and by ministries that involve the sincere and transparent worship of our Lord.

B. We must rehearse our _____.

Our mission is to provide an environment that draws people to Christ, equipping them to reach others.

C. We must revive our _____.

It is our desire to use every available Christ-honoring means to pursue, win and disciple lost people...make connections, build friendships...exercise prayer...recruit uniquely gifted people, train workers, worship together and study Scripture.

D. We must review our _____ (Measurements).

...effectively reaching folks at home, cross country and abroad with the gospel message, equipping and involving its people with significant purpose in life.

I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel. Nehemiah 2:9-10