

Catalyst Home Group

Discussion Questions :: 01/24-28,2010
Nehemiah 2:11-20

Mission & Mockery

Last week, we saw read about Nehemiah's brokenness, prayers, and permission to go rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. His heart was prepared, his prayers laid the foundation, and the means were provided. As Nehemiah now travels to Jerusalem, he experiences three aspects of mission: preparation, vision casting, and opposition.

As the story progresses, we begin to see Nehemiah's great leadership develop. He not only feels the burden and prays like crazy (spiritual preparation), but he also operates in reality (practical preparation) and learns how to deal with critics. Any good leader must learn how to manage these three if the mission is to succeed.

Discussion Questions:

[1] What questions do you have from Sunday's sermon? What stood out to you? What confused you?

[2] The current tragedy in Haiti gives us good context of this section of Nehemiah. Think about walking through the devastation of these situations. If you were part of the rebuilding of Haiti, what would you do first?

[3] Read Nehemiah 2:11-20. What was the first thing Nehemiah did when he arrived at Jerusalem? How do you sabbath (rest)? Would this be your first instinct if you were Nehemiah?

[4] On Sunday, Pastor Chris talked about a practical method for healthy Sabbath. "Divert Daily, Retreat Regularly, Abandon Annually" Do you have a routine similar to this in your life now? What would it take for you to get there? How would it change the way you work?

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Discussion Questions Continued...

[5] How can good rest allow us to worship God in our work?

[6] Why do you think Nehemiah went out at night to inspect the walls and gates? Why didn't he tell anyone what he was doing until he had developed his plan?

[7] What three points does Nehemiah make publicly to cast vision and rally the troops to rebuild? Why do you think the people followed his leadership?

[8] What charges were brought up by his critics? (Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem) Were they legit?

[9] When should we listen to critics? What are the differences between a critic and a coach?

[10] How have you personally dealt with critics in your life? How does it affect you? How do you overcome criticism?

[11] What's the biggest leadership lesson you pulled away from this week's study?