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PREPARING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE Nehemiah: See You at the Wall

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Nehemiah 2:10-20

INTRO:

3 STEPS IN PREPARING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

1. Pray
2. Plan
3. Presentation to others for cooperation

SUCCESS is never a one-man show

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

I. **EXPECT OPPOSITION (v.10)**

The fact is that the moment you say, "Let's do something," someone will jump up and say, "Let's don't."

When God's people rise and say, "Let's build," Satan say, "Let's arise and oppose!"

Nehemiah 2:10: "When Sanballat the Horomite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this they were very much disturbed that some would come to promote the welfare of Israel."

I Cor. 16:8-9 (Paul) "I will stay here at Ephesus ... There is a real opportunity for a great while and a worthwhile work, even though there are many opponents."

Statement of Faith: THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

2. **WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIMING (v. 11)**

" *after staying 3 days I set out.*" Nehemiah 2:11

What was he doing those 3 days?

4 Possibilities

- a. He was probably resting, recovering from a long journey. He had been on a camel crossing the desert. Statement of Faith: Never Make a Major Decision When You are Tired!
- b. He may have been praying.
- c. He most likely was planning.
- d. He was building curiosity!

"*There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.*" Eccl. 3:7b

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“There is a right time and a right way to do everything.” Eccl. 8:6

3. **GET THE FACTS FIRST** (vv 12-16)

Nehemiah’s midnight ride:

“I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding. By night I went out through the Valley Gate to the Jackel Well and the Dung Gate examining the walls of Jerusalem which had been broken down and its gates had been destroyed by fire.” v 12

Why did he do this at night?

“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 the nobles, or the officials or any other who would be doing the work.” v 16

Statement of Faith: PROTECT YOUR PLANS FROM PREMATURE DEATH.

“Get the facts at any price and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get.” Prov. 23:23

“What a shame ... yes, how stupid ... to decide before knowing the facts.” Prov. 18:13

“Only a sompleton believes that he is told. A prudent man checks to see where he is going.” Prov 14:15

Statement of Faith: DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH

FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

FINANCIAL FACTS

	General Offerings	Building for Tomorrow	25% Building Fund
Jan	\$12,054.25	\$	\$
Feb	20,076.32		(includes 3 mos. Of Desg. B.F., 25% Special Desig.)
Mar	23,036.07	101,152.85	10,591.51
April	22,783.80	7,959.00	5,705.00
May	15,968.00	4,949.00	4,005.00
June	18,579.74	5,529.00	4,650.00
July	21,594.46	5,418.00	5,400.00
Aug	20,769.67	5,031.90	5,195.00
Sept	19,453.66	4,319.00	4,870.00
TOTALS	175,786.97	134,358.75	40,416.51

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EXPENSES (Other than Budget of \$131,475.20)

Purchase of Land	\$ <u>200,000.00</u>
Preliminary Drawing & Consultant Fees	\$ <u>10,000.00</u>
Preliminary clearing of land	\$ <u>8,500.00</u>
Other clearing for building site	\$ <u>3,032.50</u>
Surveying	\$ <u>1,480.50</u>
Soil Testing	\$ <u>1,500.00</u>
Silt Fence (EPA Regulation)	\$ <u>4,360.00</u>
Appraisal (Bank & Loan Requirement)	\$ <u>2,500.00</u>
Final Dirt Work for building	\$ <u>20,000.00</u>
Architect payment (to date)	\$ <u>28,000.00</u>
Construction Grade Stakes (benchmark)	\$ <u>4,500.00</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$ <u>283,873.00</u>

ATTENDANCE

April, 2000	First Worship Service	<u>125</u>	avg
April, 2001	First Anniversary	<u>210</u>	
May		<u>207</u>	
June		<u>198</u>	
July		<u>213</u>	
Aug		<u>246</u>	
September		<u>212</u>	

4. IDENTIFY WITH THE PEOPLE (v. 17a)

"Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in. Come let us rebuild and we will no longer be in disgrace.'" v. 17

Nehemiah says, "I'm one of you and it's our problem.

Statement of Faith: THE BEST IDEAS ARE NOT "MINE", or "YOURS", they're "OURS".

5. DRAMATIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM (v. 17)

"Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we're 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.'"

Change never occurs until we become discontent.

Nehemiah used 2 motivations:

- He appealed to their self-esteem.
- He appealed to their concern for God's glory.

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You are a people who must cross the next river, climb the next mountain, give the next dollar, build the next building, and win the next soul.

We are a driven church.

- Driven to the ends of the earth by the Great Commission.
- Driven to the end of ourselves by the love of Christ (Great Commandment)
- Driven to the ends of time by the imminent return of Jesus.

It starts in our hearts:

Keep our eyes on the Lord.

Keep our ears open to the Great Commission.

Keep our chins up and our knees down.

Statement of Faith: THE GREATEST MOTIVATION IN LIFE IS NOT EXTERNAL, NOR INTERNAL, BUT ETERNAL!

6. ASK FOR A SPECIFIC RESPONSE (v 17b)

“Everything is in a mess; come let us rebuild the wall.”

3 Responses:

1. He calls for action.
2. He appeals for help.
3. He asks for a specific response.

He was both realistic and optimistic.

Statement of Faith: WE NEED TO SEE BOTH THE REAL AND THE IDEAL.
You must see both what is actual and what is possible.

7. YOU ENCOURAGE WITH A PERSONAL TESTIMONY (v. 18)

Nehemiah’s Story: v. 18

- How God called him to lead the project.
- How circumstances confirmed his calling.

The People’s Response: Let’s Begin!

“I told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the King had said then they replied, ‘Let’s start rebuilding.’” v. 18

Statement of Faith: PEOPLE FOLLOW PEOPLE NOT PROGRAMS

“Follow my example as I follow the examples of Christ.” I Cor. 11:1

8. ANSWER THE OPPOSITION QUICKLY AND CONFIDENTLY (v. 19)

“But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobia the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked us and ridiculed us.”

Nehemiah’s Response (v. 20)

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“And I answered them saying, ‘The god of heaven will give us success. We, His servants, will start rebuilding. But as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem, any claim or historic right to it.”

He refused to argue.

He says:

- The project is God’s idea.
- He exposed their selfish motives.

“Don’t be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.” I John 3:13

The only way to not be criticized in life is to do nothing, be nothing, say nothing.

The issue is not, Who do we think we are? But, who do we think God is? We serve a big God, a great God. The size of your God determines the size of your goal.