

Going to the Next Level
Nehemiah: Building Beyond Ourselves, Part 3
January 25th & 28th, 2018

Insights on Influence

- Everyone influences **SOMEONE**
- We never know **WHO** or **HOW MUCH** we influence
- The best investment in the future is a **PROPER** influence today
- Influence is a **SKILL** that can be developed

Nehemiah now moves from his role as cupbearer to his role as **BUILDER**

Nehemiah 2:11 (NIV) “I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days...”

Nehemiah didn’t immediately rush to begin his project, instead he was **WAITING** on God & **EVALUATING**

Nehemiah 2:12 (NIV) “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.”

Nehemiah 2:16 (NIV) “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.”

Before Activity...Meaningful Solitude

Activity (busyness) doesn’t equal **SPIRITUALITY**

“Character is what you are when nobody’s looking.”

Nehemiah 2:12 (NAS) “I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind.”

In times of quietness when there is no **ACTIVITY**, God puts into our heart and mind some top priority **INFORMATION**

As followers of Jesus, we need to be life-long students and apply **GOD’S WORD**

2 Timothy 2:15 (NAS) “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

To be successful we must be faithful **BEHIND THE SCENES** as we **LISTEN** to God

Nehemiah 2:13-15 (NIV) “¹³By 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. ¹⁴Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back...”

Like Nehemiah we must be aware of the **DETAILS** and develop a **PLAN OF ACTION**

All the groundwork for this gigantic undertaking was taking place in the **SILENCE** and **SOLITUDE** of this time

After Solitude...Strong Motivation

Nehemiah 2:17 (NIV) “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.”

To make a difference we must **IDENTIFY** with the need (note “we,” “us,” & “we” in verse 17)

When you cast blame and criticism, you **SQUELCH** motivation; when you identify with the problem, you **ENCOURAGE** motivation

Extrinsic motivation deals with an **EXTERNAL REWARD**; intrinsic motivation appeals to the **INTERNAL** part of a person

With Motivation...Inevitable Opposition

Nehemiah 2:19-20 (NIV) "But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. 'What is this you are doing?' they asked. 'Are you rebelling against the king?' I answered them by 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 or any claim or historic right to it.'"

Nehemiah knew what he and the people of Jerusalem were doing was God's work, and he would not **LISTEN** nor **ASSOCIATE** with anyone trying to stop it

You must be able to handle **CRITICISM** (hostile & friendly)

STOP your first reaction → **LISTEN** → Respond **CALMLY** →
Don't get **DEFENSIVE** & start making excuses → Ask **QUESTIONS** to understand the feedback →
Don't take it **PERSONALLY** → See the criticism as **HELP** → Say **THANK YOU** →

Keep moving **FORWARD**

Evaluate criticism in light of the spirit & attitude in which criticism is **GIVEN** as well as which voice the person giving the criticism **LISTENS TO**

Nehemiah 4:3 (NIV) "Tobiah the Ammonite,... said, 'What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!'"

You can look to a person, but you will ultimately be **DISAPPOINTED**

You can look at yourself and fall into **SELF-PITY**, get puffed up with **PRIDE**, or demoralized by **INSECURITY**

You can compare yourself to others – you'll be **AHEAD** of some and **BEHIND** others

You can fix your eyes on **GOD**, and you'll be right where you need to be

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will begin to set aside some quiet time so I can listen to what God might want to say to me before I act
- I am or have recently been facing criticism, and I will begin to respond in a positive way in order to grow and benefit from the criticism

Next week: Join us next week as we explore "Preparing for Battle." Bring a friend!

Going to the Next Level
Nehemiah: Building Beyond Ourselves, Part 3
January 25th & 28th, 2018

Insights on Influence

- Everyone influences _____
- We never know _____ or _____ we influence
- The best investment in the future is a _____ influence today
- Influence is a _____ that can be developed

Nehemiah now moves from his role as cupbearer to his role as _____

Nehemiah 2:11 (NIV) "I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days..."

Nehemiah didn't immediately rush to begin his project, instead he was _____ on God & _____

Nehemiah 2:12 (NIV) "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."

Nehemiah 2:16 (NIV) "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."

Before Activity...Meaningful Solitude

Activity (busyness) doesn't equal _____

"Character is what you are when nobody's looking."

Nehemiah 2:12 (NAS) "I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind."

In times of quietness when there is no _____, God puts into our heart and mind some top priority _____

As followers of Jesus, we need to be life-long student's and apply _____

2 Timothy 2:15 (NAS) "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

To be successful we must be faithful _____ as we _____ to God

Nehemiah 2:13-15 (NIV) "¹³By 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. ¹⁴Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back..."

Like Nehemiah we must be aware of the _____ and develop a _____

All the groundwork for this gigantic undertaking was taking place in the _____ and _____ of this time

After Solitude...Strong Motivation

Nehemiah 2:17 (NIV) "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."

To make a difference we must _____ with the need (note "we," "us," & "we" in verse 17)

When you cast blame and criticism, you _____ motivation; when you identify with the problem, you _____ motivation

Extrinsic motivation deals with an _____; intrinsic motivation appeals to the _____ part of a person

With Motivation...Inevitable Opposition

Nehemiah 2:19-20 (NIV) "But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. 'What is this you are doing?' they asked. 'Are you rebelling against the king?' I answered them by 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 or any claim or historic right to it.'"

Nehemiah knew what he and the people of Jerusalem were doing was God's work, and he would Not _____ nor _____ with anyone trying to stop it

You must be able to handle _____ (hostile & friendly)

_____ your first reaction → _____ → Respond _____ →
Don't get _____ & start making excuses → Ask _____ to understand the feedback →
Don't take it _____ → See the criticism as _____ → Say _____ →
Keep moving _____

Evaluate criticism in light of the spirit & attitude in which criticism is _____ as well as which voice the person giving the criticism _____

Nehemiah 4:3 (NIV) "Tobiah the Ammonite,... said, 'What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!'"

You can look to a person, but you will ultimately be _____

You can look at yourself and fall into _____, get puffed up with _____, or demoralized by _____

You can compare yourself to others – you'll be _____ of some and _____ others

You can fix your eyes on _____, and you'll be right where you need to be

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will begin to set aside some quiet time so I can listen to what God might want to say to me before I act
- I am or have recently been facing criticism, and I will begin to respond in a positive way in order to grow and benefit from the criticism

Next week: Join us next week as we explore "Preparing for Battle." Bring a friend!

