

“VISION PREPARATION”

Neh 1:1-11

Nehemiah a great picture of a man who gets a vision from God & fulfills it. We need to see how this comes about.

I. VISION REVELATION

A. A powerful thing is when you catch a vision for your life

1. What does God want you to do in life? *2 powerful days in a man's life: The day he is born, and the day he knows why*
 - a. That may be for a section of your life
 - b. That may be a life purpose

2. God is at work in our lives – making plans *Colossians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,*

B. God works in us to reveal His will

1. **It sometimes begins with an interest:** *Nehemiah 1:2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.*

1. Different people are interested in different things: Music/drama/people

b. Sometimes our interests come from God!

2. **It sometimes begins with a concern**

a. Nehemiah 1:4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

1. It bothers us: Someone should do something about that...Someone should help them

b. What is it in the world that bothers you when you see it/hear about it? Think about in our free time/lose sleep/dream about

II. VISION PREPARATION

A. For every vision there is the time principle: *When the vision is revealed – it's probably not yet time for it*

1. You don't have to act (completely) on a vision the moment it comes to you

a. In fact, if you act too soon you will cause problems (Moses)

2. There is always a waiting period between the revealing of the vision and the action

a. The vision is being prepared

B. Why is there a waiting period – why does the vision need to be prepared?

1. **The vision needs to mature:** God reveals details over time: It comes into focus

2. **We need to mature:** Simple truth about vision - You're not ready for it!

a. Mark 1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

1. Preparation/transformation of our character

a. Pride/impatience/marriage/faithfulness/work

2. Skills need to be developed: People skills/skills in the word/skills used in ministry

3. **God needs to prepare the way:**

a. God needed to work on the King's heart – and the people of Jerusalem

1. God getting people ready to help/to get saved...

III. VISION PARTICIPATION

A. A huge mistake is men who do nothing about what God reveals

1. They assume it will “just happen” – they leave it all up to God

a. Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

2. Nehemiah is a picture of a man who participated in the vision

B. Vision participation

1. **You need to pray about it:** Chapter 1 records his prayer to God (no doubt not just one time)

a. Show me b. Guide me c. Prepare the way d. prepare people

2. **You need to surrender to it:** If it's not just somebody – but you; You need to be willing

a. Acts 9:6 Lord, what would you have me to do?

1. This may involve a change of plans

3. **You need to think about it:**

a. When the King asked – Neh knew what needed to be done...he had thought about it

1. What do you need in order to fulfill the vision?

4. **You need to get ready for it:** There were things that were needed for the vision to come to pass

a. Bible skills b. Speaking skills c. People skills d. Financially

C. When we do this – God does miracles when the time is right

1. Nehemiah 6:15-16 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was done by our God.