

Nehemiah Project

21 Daily Devotions

DEVOTION #2 - Monday, October 10

They said to me, "The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned down." When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Neh. 1:3-4 HCSB

Whenever God wants to get a work done, He lays hold of willing people. The walls of Jerusalem had been ruined and only a few people remained despite the amount of work that needed to be completed. God was looking for someone to go to the ruined city and restore safety and order. Nehemiah was the person. A cupbearer for the king, Nehemiah held a high position in the court and had gained the king's trust and admiration. As Nehemiah enjoyed the benefits of his closeness to the king, he was greatly burdened for his people and their state. The news of beloved Jerusalem lying in ruins and the lack workers or supplies to rebuild it, led Nehemiah to petition the king for permission to return and lead the project.

Nehemiah's first act was not to raise money, enlist volunteers, or even schedule a trip to observe the crisis first-hand. No, his first step was to pray! As we begin this spiritual journey together, we must seek God's will and determine how he wants to use each of us towards completion.

This kind of prayer requires persistence! It is a plea for God to use us to reach people that are not yet born. It is asking God to help us to be good ancestors to those who will come behind us.

Nehemiah was comfortable and lived 700 hundred miles from Jerusalem, but his prayer, and his heart compelled him to sacrifice it all for the sake of others.

Begin asking God today to burden your heart and to give you a passion like Nehemiah to save this city for Christ!

God, awaken my heart to needs around me and beyond and for people to know You and be able to rebuild their lives on Your promises.