

### #3 Planning is Key

Ready, Pray...Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah

Eastside Christian Fellowship: September 2, 2007

Text: Nehemiah 2:1-10

- ✍ Share with your home group what one of your dreams is in life. What has kept you from fulfilling that dream?
- ✍ Discuss so far what you know about Nehemiah. How would you describe him with the limited information you have so far in this series?

Leadership takes courage, boldness and a willingness to walk through open doors of opportunity.

What did Nehemiah's job as cup bearer require of him? What characteristics were necessary?

- ✍ Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." What does Edison mean by this? Do you agree?

Neh. 2:2 says that Nehemiah was fearful. What was he fearful of?

- ✍ What is it that you fear today? What would you do differently if you weren't afraid?
- ✍ Describe a time when fear paralyzed you from going forward or pursuing a dream/desire.

**In Neh. 2:4 we read, "The king responded, 'What is it you are seeking?' Then I quickly prayed to the God of heaven."**

- ✍ What do you personally learn from this short but powerful prayer?

Nehemiah went to the king who could help him with his plan.

- ✍ Think again about your dream or something you want to accomplish. Who is it you can go to who can give you solid advice, counsel, help and resources?

**Nehemiah's plan included asking for and receiving the following:**

- A leave of absence from his job.
- Funding for the entire project.
- Personal letters to the various governors to ensure his safe passage.
- Lumber from the Kings forest to build the
- gates. He even knows the guy who he needs to deal with...Asaph.
- A house to live in.
- An appointment as governor of Judah. (see 5:14)

These can be summarized by remembering that he asked for 3 things:

P \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

**Through Planning Nehemiah...** (adapted from *The Maxwell Leadership Bible*)

1. Knew long it would take 2:6
2. Knew what it would take to get there 2:7
3. Knew what he would need to get the task done 2:8
4. Knew that God's hand was on him and the task at hand. 2:8

- ✍ What did Nehemiah have to say about the role of God in 2:8?
- ✍ Although we may have power, position and great skills we need to realize where these things come from. Do you acknowledge God as your power source and giver of your gifts?

**Nehemiah was prepared.**

He waited on God.

He trusted in the opportunity and the open door.

He bathed it in prayer.

He planned it in faith.

Nehemiah wasn't just a dreamer, he was a visionary: Here is a quote from **Andy Stanley's book, *Visionneering***

**"Dreamers dream about things being different.  
Visionaries envision themselves making a difference."**  
*Which do you tend to be?*