

#4 Casting Vision – Arise and Let us Rebuild

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah

Eastside Christian Fellowship: September 9, 2007

TEXT: Nehemiah 2:9-20 Keyword: Vision

So far we have seen Nehemiah depend heavily on prayer & planning and now we see him start to take action as he goes to Jerusalem.

- ✍ Now that you have gotten to know Nehemiah a little better, describe his faith, his character, his work ethic, his passions.

Nehemiah had to contend with 3 things:

1. He had to contend with leaving his comfort zone: (2:9-11)

- ✍ Why do you think Nehemiah took 3 days to rest? What did it do for him?
- ✍ Are you good at resting or taking a Sabbath? Why or why not?
- ✍ What is God's outlook on taking a Sabbath rest?
- ✍ Why didn't Nehemiah share the vision with anyone before this?

2. He had to contend with _____ of the _____ (2:12-18)

Many of us are living in rubble. Lives are out of control or a certain sin is out of control. The only way to deal with it is to assess the damage and start cleaning it up.

- ✍ Why did Nehemiah assess the damaged and broken walls at night?
- ✍ Have you ever taken on a task that was much larger than you anticipated? How did you respond? What did you do?
- ✍ How was Nehemiah able to get the "buy-in" from the people?
- ✍ Why do you think they reacted so positively?
- ✍ Examine how Nehemiah approached the whole scenario when he got to Jerusalem and how he very methodically assessed the problem and cast the vision. Think of something in your life you are facing and apply his approach to your issue. Discuss this with the group and get their input.
- ✍ What are the walls in your life that are down and you need to confront and rebuild?
- ✍ What can we learn about growing a church and effectively sharing Jesus with others from the first 2 chapters of Nehemiah?
- ✍ Nehemiah told the people what the problem was. What would say is the main problem in our communities? Did Nehemiah tell them it was their problem or did he share the burden?
- ✍ What would you say is the vision for your Home Group? Share your individual vision with the group? Do some of them overlap?

3. He had to contend with _____ (2:19-20)

- ✍ Who was Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem?
- ✍ Why were they so negative towards the vision? What were they protecting?
- ✍ How did Nehemiah handle them?
- ✍ What is the best way to confront the "stuff" in our life that is entangling us in our spiritual growth?
- ✍ Do you tend to be more of a discourager or an encourager?
- ✍ How can discouragers kill the vision of a church or a Home Group?
- ✍ What are some practical ways to practice encouragement more in your life?