

Kingdom: Establishing a New Work.

Principles for church planting from Nehemiah.

You were designed by almighty God to be a willing and a living sacrifice. **Romans 12:1**
 You are made to fit and to be a part of building God's kingdom.

Chapter 1: We must get the _____ for God's _____.

1. Notice that God uses those that are _____ to be used. Vs 2

KEY: Nehemiah _____.

Who has God's heart for His kingdom? Those that will be used, INQUIRE.

- **SETTING:** Jerusalem was still under the judgment of sin. It was bad.

No one wanted to really know Jerusalem's condition. **Jeremiah 15:5**
 To know about the need might result in personal responsibility!

*KEY: We need to be men and women that are all about God's kingdom.
 Those who know can pray, prepare, give and go.*

2. Getting a kingdom burden.

- _____: _____ the need. Vs 3
 - affliction and reproach (*of people lost in sin.*)
 - walls broken, gates burned (*people who are helpless and defenseless before the god of this world.*)

Principle Matthew 25:35–40; Luke 10:33–34

- _____: _____ over the need. Vs 4
 Vs 4 – he stopped /he sat, wept and mourned – he fasted and prayed.

Anything that you cannot truly weep over, you will not effectively _____.

Understand how God _____ us as His stewards.

Our position with Him, our stability, our blessing and provision – **all should move us to help those who lack.** Our salvation should provoke us to share it!

Danger – the spirit of our age. Rev 3. The Laodicean mindset. Rich and selfish. INDEPENDENT FROM GOD. Uncaring about His agenda and will for our lives.

- **Prayer.** _____ is our claim of _____ from God.
Satan is so good at getting us to give up the MIGHTY WEAPON of prayer.

Prayer starts with _____ of _____. Vs 5-7

Prayer continues with making a biblical _____. Vs 8-9

Prayer concludes with a _____ for help. Vs 10-11

Brokenness is key.

Waiting on God in prayer is never wasted time. It is the best INVESTMENT that you can possibly make. **Psalm 27:14**

Chapter 2: We must _____ the _____ and _____ the _____.

1. The kingdom burden must be _____. Vs 1-5

- There is fear in sharing the burden.
Will you be rejected? Will the burden be seen by others?
- ***Nehemiah was in a dangerous position.***

Nehemiah was bold.

Share the vision prayerfully! Luke 18:1

2. Trust God to work through your _____. Vs 6-9

- *If God is in it, then God will make a way for you to move forward.*

If the authority structure in you life is not with you in the vision - take that as safety from the Lord. It's not time, not now or not the way you think.

A vision from God will be supplied! Vs 9
- Understand that there will always be _____ to any kingdom building work. Vs 10
1 Corinthians 16:9

3. Do your _____. Know the need. Develop the plan. Vs 11-18

- Do the homework. Do an actual survey. See the field! What are the needs? Vs 11-15

What is the scope of the work? What will the work require? Count the cost! **Luke 14:25-33**
- Vision cast. Vs 17-18.
- Deal with _____. Vs 19
In vs 10 they were grieved at the idea of anyone working to build God's kingdom.
Now they are full of derision. There will always be those that scorn a **biblical** mission.

Note the accusation of _____ against _____. This was not the case.
Trust God to deal with your detractors. **1 Corinthians 1:19**

- Stay full of faith! Vs 20
What God is in, God will open the way for it!

Planting churches against your current authority structure result in weak works. **Why?**

The Spirit is grieved. Ephesians 4:30

Churches built on splits and divisions are weak and anemic.

KEY: Trust God to move the heart of those in your authority structure. **Proverbs 21:1**

Chapter 3: We must be willing to _____ and work _____.

Planting churches takes:

1. Division of labor.

All people in their place working. (Notice it's all kinds of people doing all kinds of jobs.)

Future pastors: you have to build, train and lead teams.

2. Note the FUNCTIONS (represented by the gates) that must be made ready! Vs 2-3

Picture:

Gates – functions THROUGH which ministry must take place.

Towers – points of WATCH.

Beams – support enables ACCESS.

Locks and bars – SAFETY measures. Access is CONTROLLED.

Vs 1: the sheep gate

Are there ways for (and are we ready for) people to come in?

You need on ramps for people to join.

Vs 3: the fish gate

Do we have the means / Are we fishing for souls?

There are many methods. 1 Corinthians 9:22

*In every church, recognize that there are some who want to be **associated** with the work – but they don't want to **DO** the work. Vs 5*

KEY: Our leaders must be servant leaders.

Vs 6: the old gate

Are we sticking to the proven paths / to set and solid doctrine? Jeremiah 6:16

Vs 13: The valley gate

Vs 14: the dung gate

The church is to be holy.

Vs 15: the gate of the fountain

Are we keeping to our life source? John 4:14; John 7:37 vs Jeremiah 2:13

Constant temptation: Always pursuing better methods and tools. No power.

Vs 26: the water gate Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3

Labor for access to THE Word. Nehemiah 8:1–8

Vs 28: the horse gate

Horses are strength.

*Kings weren't to multiply horses. **Deuteronomy 17:16; 1 Kings 10:28***

The danger of relying on tactics and tacticians vs God working thru His people.

Vs 29: the east gate.

This is the gate beautiful, the golden gate.

Are we preparing the way for the Lord? Are people looking for His return?

Picture: *Today the gate is closed.*

Are we laboring to prepare people to receive Christ?

Vs 31: the gate Miphkad,

*Inspection gate. The military gate. A mission focus. **2 Timothy 2:1-5***

Chapter 4: We must be willing to endure _____ and _____

If we will plant churches with a faith-based view of God's Word and work – we must be willing to endure scorners and discouragers.

1. God will allow people that do not share the kingdom agenda into your life. Vs 1-3

- If you are doing God's work, many will _____ it.
- Discouragement from the mission of building God's kingdom will take many forms.

2. Let scorn and discouragement _____ your _____ life. Vs 4-5

- God hears prayer and knows what He wants to do through you! **James 4:8**

Hard times are still good times. They drive you before the Lord in prayer.

A hard time is a sweet time when you know that God is with you. **Romans 8:31**

3. Persevere in the work! Vs 6-23

- At the end of the day, you have to just keep doing the work. Vs 6

Get full of faith! Move forward in faith!

- **KEY:** Vision _____ people.
Contrast **Proverbs 29:18**

- When there is fruit – people will slander it. Vs 7-8

- Don't let wolves mess with the sheep. Vs 9
There is a war that comes with the work! **Genesis 2:15**

Example: Paul with the leaders at Miletus. **Acts 20:29–31**

- Build up the work (Eph 4) but at the same time, set a guard. Vs 10-18
You have to be willing to engage in **warning** ministry. Constant vigilance is required.

Anything that serves to get people off the wall isn't worth our time.

Take time for cleaning /for refreshing.

Chapter 5 – Internal issues.

Staying right with God also requires staying right with one another!
A grieved Holy Spirit results in a hindered work.

Only owe God.

Pastors - A Calling vs a career. Servant leadership.

Chapter 6 – Distractions.**Chapter 7 – Diligence.**

Know the state of the flock!

Chapter 8 – Exposition and Edification.**Chapter 9-13 - The need for continuous revival**

Chapter 9 – confession of sin

Chapter 10 – commitment to funding the work. Tithing, etc

Chapter 11 – commitment to supporting worship

Chapter 12 – celebrate milestones.

Chapter 13 – Spiritual separation from wicked living