

Luke 18:1 *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

Philippians 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Sometimes we pray for things we want to see happen, even some very good things, even some God-honoring things, but are we also willing to be involved?

Prayer is not an excuse for lack of action on our part

The reason the temple rebuilding was delayed over 18 years and why the walls were still in disrepair was because Artaxerxes had made that decision

Nehemiah is now willing to do 2 very hard things

Ask for permission to leave and build

Go to Jerusalem, have a plan, and ask the people to join him in the work

Nehemiah is now asking Artaxerxes to reverse his previous decree

Plan (Chapter 2)

Nehemiah 2:17-18 *Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace”. I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.*

John 6:5-6 *When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.*

GOD IS A PLANNER

Proverbs 21:1

The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

IF GOD IS LEADING AND MOTIVATING OUR PLANS WE WILL SUCCEED. GOD CONTROLS THE RESULTS

The King (2:1-8)

The ruins (2:9-16)

The Jews (2:17-20)

NEHEMIAH DIDN'T GO INTO THIS PROJECT BLIND:

Timeline (2:6) NEHEMIAH WAS ACCOUNTABLE IN HIS PLANNING

List of materials (2:7-8) NEHEMIAH PLANNED FOR WHAT HE WOULD NEED

Trust in God's hand (2:8) NEHEMIAH EVEN ASKED FOR SAFE TRAVEL

Ezra did not ask for safe travel, because he had faith

Nehemiah asked for safe travel, because he had wisdom

God is Great

God is Good

God is Gracious

God is Glorious

What was ultimately Nehemiah's motivation? God's honor

The city of God, where He had chosen to represent His presence

The people of God, who had forgotten how to represent God's choosing them