

Nehemiah

A great man of prayer, compassion & action

Introduction – to the man

- Nehemiah -
 - Who was he ?
 - Where was he ?
 - When was he living ?
 - What job was he doing ?
 - What were his concerns ?

Nehemiah – a man of prayer

- How's my hometown ?
 - A big mess
 - *no walls or gates to protect them*
- How are my people ?
 - Still living in poverty
- Nehemiah's prayer – a GOOD example to follow
 - Knows God's position & his own, v. 5 - 6a
 - Confesses his nation's sins, v. 6b - 7
 - Reminds God of His promises, v. 8 - 10
 - Asks God for His blessings, v. 11
- **Our reaction & action to God's people in trouble ?**

God's job placement training

- Nehemiah, an exile in captivity
- Moses, a slave's son
- David, the youngest of the family & a shepherd boy
- Saints in Caesar's household
- **Where's He placed you & for what purpose ?**

Nehemiah – a man of compassion

- A risk-taker
- Well-thought out strategy (after FIRST seeking out God's support)
- Took "advantage" of his trust

Nehemiah – a man of action

- Steps out in faith under God's calling
- Excellent planner
- A master of delegation & team-building
 - 45 different teams of people involved
- Not a wimp – faces opposition head-on but knows where his strength is from
- Good motivator
 - "Remember the Lord, who is great & awesome...& FIGHT" 4:14
 - "Don't grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." 8:11

Nehemiah – a man of fairness

- The Governor
 - Uses his position fairly & wisely
 - Let's not destroy one another
 - Spread his blessings to others, 5:17 - 18
- How do we react to people being abused due to their powerlessness & poverty ?

Nehemiah – a man of devotion

- Encourages God's people to listen to God's Word
- Encourages God's people to
 - return to remembrances of God's Salvation & the forgiveness of their sins
 - to confess their past sins
 - to put into action their promises of renewal

Nehemiah – a man of thankfulness

- Jerusalem, re-inhabited, 11:1
- Jerusalem, rejoiced over, 12:27 ff
- Jerusalem, great thanks raised to God, 12:40-43
- *When God answers our prayers, do we always stop & say "thank you" ?*

Nehemiah – a man of challenge

- Challenges his people head-on to God's commandments
- Introduces further reform to purify his people for God
- *Any challenges from God for you to change in your lives as we look towards 2006 ?*

Nehemiah – quite a man !

- A man of...
 - Prayer
 - Compassion
 - Action
 - Fairness
 - Devotion
 - Thankfulness
 - Challenge