Character Study: Nehemiah
Part 1 – Nehemiah's Vision
Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

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What's happening?

● Nehemiah served in the Persian court as the king's <u>cupbearer</u>. This was a position of high honor and prestige. The fact that Nehemiah was selected for this position shows that he was a man of <u>character</u>, full of <u>wisdom</u>, and very <u>trustworthy</u>. *(1:11)*

● Nehemiah received word about the condition of Jerusalem following the Babylonian captivity. The city <u>wall</u> had been broken down and the city <u>gates</u> had been burned, and the people currently there were in great distress. *(1:1-3)*

● The news made Nehemiah <u>weep</u> for many days. He spent the time <u>fasting</u> and <u>praying</u> to God, <u>confessing</u> the sins of the people and <u>pleading</u> for God to be merciful. *(1:4-11)*

● Nehemiah's sadness continued for <u>four</u> months. The king noticed his "sorrow of heart" and asked what was wrong. Nehemiah explained the pain he felt for his fellow Israelites in Jerusalem and boldly asked permission to return there to <u>rebuild</u> the city. The king willingly granted him his request. *(2:1-6)*

What's God doing?

> God had allowed Judah to be taken captive by the Babylonians (in 586 BC) because of their persistent <u>rebellion</u> against Him. Because of God's <u>faithfulness</u>, He allowed them to begin returning to Jerusalem. It was in 444 BC that Nehemiah made his return journey with the purpose of restoring the city.

What's to learn?

→ Even in the opening section of this book, the leadership qualities of Nehemiah are apparent:

➢ When he saw a problem, He went straight to God in <u>prayer</u>.
➢ He had a <u>vision</u> and <u>passion</u> to fix the problem.
➢ He recognized <u>what</u> needed to be done, and had a plan of <u>how</u> to accomplish it.
➢ He looked for and recognized <u>opportunities</u> to act. He didn't just have a burden to do something, he was willing to actually do it!

*Notice: Prayer → Vision → Strategy → Opportunity → Action