



Seeing Possibilities Beyond the Problems

READ & REFLECT: Nehemiah 2:8b-20

And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. ⁹ So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. ¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

Seeing possibilities beyond the problems in our lives requires that we...

#1. Learn to expect problems and resistance to God's plans.

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Romans 8:15-18 - So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. ¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

*God never promises to remove us from our struggles.
He does promise, however, to change the way we look at them.*

Max Lucado

READ: Nehemiah 2:11-16

¹¹ I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹² I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

¹³ By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵ so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

Seeing possibilities beyond the problems in our lives requires that we...

#2. Spend time assessing what the _____

Q: What do you envision through the struggles you are doing through at this moment in time?

READ: Nehemiah 2:17-18a

¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

Seeing possibilities beyond the problems in our lives requires that we...

#3. Get _____ about what God is asking you to join Him in doing and _____ that to others.

Q: Where is God calling you to join Him in what He wants to accomplish in and through you?



READ: Nehemiah 2:18b
They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

#4. Make a personal commitment to _____

* note the NewDay *Envisioning Our Ministry Values* on the back of this handout.

READ: Nehemiah 2:19-20
¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"
²⁰ I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

#5. Rely upon God for your _____

Q: In what ways have you been experiencing God's strength flowing into you lately?

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Key Question: How is the Holy Spirit leading you each day?

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because

of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
Romans 8:9-14

Revive, Rebuild, Restore: Moving Forward with God's Vision

November 20 – Seeing Possibilities Beyond the Problems (Neh. 2:7-20)

ADVENT (November 27-December 24)

November 27 – Gratitude Sunday!

December 4 – When the Vision becomes the Reality (Neh. 3)

December 11 – Faith in the Face of Opposition (Neh.4)

December 18 – Hope When Misunderstood (Neh. 4-5)

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 pm

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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