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Being Bold Nehemiah 2:1-10 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

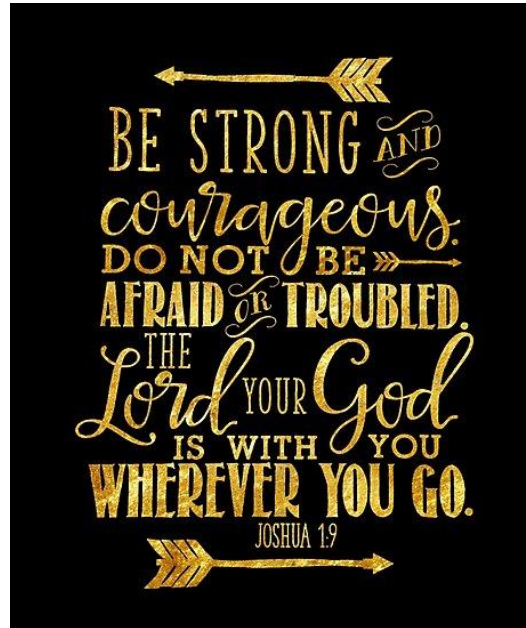
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the first chapter of Nehemiah, Nehemiah receives the news that the wall around Jerusalem is fallen and in disrepair. This week we see him take bold action in response to the news. As we look at Chapter 2 Nehemiah lays his request before the king; that he would be allowed to go and repair the wall. However, he does not ask the king until he has asked the true King. Nehemiah is the cupbearer for Artaxerxes, the king. Artaxerxes has the authority to send Nehemiah with all the resources necessary to rebuild the wall. But, for Nehemiah to even ask such a thing of the king is way outside of protocol. There is significant risk involved, but Nehemiah is bold in his desire to do the work of the Kingdom of God. Join us this week as we talk about Nehemiah's boldness and how he can be an example for us to boldly do the work of the Kingdom.

Nehemiah 2:1-10 (NASB)

Nehemiah's Prayer Answered

2 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine *was* before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?" ⁴ Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." ⁶ Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send

me, and I gave him a definite time. ⁷ And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors *of the provinces* beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted *them* to me because the good hand of my God *was* on me.

⁹ Then I came to the governors *of the provinces* beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *about it*, it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. What is the job of the cupbearer?

9. Why was it a big deal for Nehemiah to be sad in front of the king?

10. What does Nehemiah do before responding to the king when the king asks “what would you request”?

11. Was Nehemiah’s request bold? Why? What was he risking? (consider Gen. 40:1-3, 20-22)

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. Have you ever made a bold request on behalf of God?

13. Nehemiah was nervous about making a request because he was in service to the king. When might you be nervous about making a request for God's Kingdom?

14. What should we always do before making a request for God's Kingdom? Look back to see all that Nehemiah did in both this chapter and in chapter one.

15. God rewarded Nehemiah's boldness. Do you think God will always reward our boldness? Why or why not? How can we know when we should be bold for the Kingdom?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes