

January 20, 2019

Plan of Action Nehemiah 2:11-20 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 second half of Nehemiah chapter 2 we see Nehemiah arrive in Jerusalem. He has boldly asked the king for permission to go rebuild Jerusalem and God granted him favor with the king. Now Nehemiah has to find favor with the people that will build the wall around Jerusalem. He knows that he cannot just show up and complain about the problem, so before saying anything he first inspects the wall. He spends time identifying the fullness of the problem before he asks people to follow him. Then after he has a plan he asks the people to help him. He lets the people know how God has already granted him favor to take on the task. It is important that the people see that God is with them and that it is not just Nehemiah's plan but God at work. Come join us this week as we discover how you can see where God is at work in your life and how you can take action to be a part of His plan.



Nehemiah 2:11-20 (NASB)

Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem's Walls

¹¹ So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding. ¹³ So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon's Well and *on* to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I passed on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was no place for my mount to pass. ¹⁵ So I went up at night by the ravine and inspected the wall. Then I entered the Valley Gate again and returned. ¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work.

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach." ¹⁸ I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good *work*. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *it*, they mocked us and despised us and said, "What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" ²⁰ So I answered them and said to them, "The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem."

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. Why do you think Nehemiah inspected the wall before saying anything to anyone?

9. Why were the officials against him?

10. Why did not having a wall put Jerusalem in a “bad situation”?

11. How did God reassure Nehemiah that he was doing the right thing?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

12. How can we tell when God is leading us to take on a task?

13. Considering the first 2 chapters, what should we do when God leads us to do something?

14. How can we bring about awareness and a solution to a problem without coming across as a complainer? (Nehemiah did this well)

15. What types of things might God be leading you to do?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

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

Sermon Notes