

## Decisions, Decisions, Decisions!

Nehemiah 2:11-20

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."

**Key Verse:** "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5)

1. Good Decisions can be ***hard***.
2. Good Decisions can't be ***hurried***.
3. Good Decisions come from the ***heart***.

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." –Steven Covey

"Never make permanent decisions on temporary feelings."

"The Secret to success is to make wise decisions." -Henry Ford

- I. Nehemiah took time to ***count the cost***. (v.11-12)

***So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.*** 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.

1. Nehemiah ***invested*** his time in God's purposes. (v.11)

So I came to Jerusalem and ***was there three days***.

2. Nehemiah **investigated** the walls of God's people. (v.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.***

3. Nehemiah **included** all the leaders of God's possession. (v.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.

- II. Nehemiah gathered the people to **cast the vision**. (V.17a)

Then I said to them, ***"You see the bad situation we are in..."***

1. Nehemiah spoke of the deplorable **situation**. (v.17b)

***"Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire."***

2. Nehemiah spoke of the necessary **cooperation**. (V.17c)

***Come let us rebuild*** the wall of Jerusalem so that ***we will no longer be a reproach.***

3. Nehemiah spoke of God's **intervention**. (v.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.

- III. Nehemiah took time to **confront the objections**. (v.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?"

1. Nehemiah responded that **success** would come from God. (v.20a)

So I answered them and said to them, ***"The God of heaven will give us success;***

2. Nehemiah responded that **servants** would arise and build. (v.20b)

***"Therefore we His servants will arise and build,"***

3. Nehemiah responded that **separation** was necessary. (v.20c)

So I answered them and said to them, but *you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem.*"

***“Fear*** is

At the **root** of **all**

***Indecision”***