

w/b 25th November 2018 Series: Another brick in the wall – Nehemiah

The Faith of Leadership Passage: Nehemiah 2:1-8

LAUNCH: Open Doors

Conduct a quick survey in your group. Is it more difficult to recognize an open door or opportunity in your life? Or is it more difficult to walk through an open door that you see? Explain your answer

DISCOVERY

Notice that Nehemiah had never been sad in the presence of Artaxerxes (Neh 2:2). So usually he would have been chirpy, buoyant, upbeat etc (albeit possibly out of fear)
How can our demeanour affect the way people respond to us?

How could our demeanour or general attitude affect the way God responds to us? Can you think of both positive and negative examples?

Nehemiah responded by first affirming his loyalty to the king, then he said a silent prayer before he made a request (Neh 2:3-4). When we get an open door, what could help us remember to pray silently before speaking?

Nehemiah had a specific plan in mind to present to the king (Neh 2:5-6). How important is it to think things through as you are awaiting an open door (Proverbs 21:5)? What types of things are you doing to prepare for open doors?

Nehemiah said, “If it pleases the king” (Neh 2:5). What can help us present requests respectfully rather than make demands or put the person in a no-win situation?

When the king approved Nehemiah’s plan, to whom did Nehemiah give the credit (Neh 2:8)? How often do you give God the credit for success (Psa 52:9)?

APPLICATION

- We can all get a bit grumpy over the winter period (well I can). Pray for our church that attitudes remain good, fuses don’t get short and that we all get on (good demeanours all round)
- Pray for those in authority. Our government, the eldership in the church (& Tim as he takes up his new responsibilities) & bosses/supervisors at work. Pray for your home group leaders
- Pray for careful planning to continue re our existing gateways but also for the prayer, planning and the launch of new initiatives in the church
- Pray that through it all God gets all the glory.

Discussion questions adapted from voices study series, Grace Church KS, USA.

Application questions (as you can probably guess) are my own. DWP