

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Nehemiah 2:11-20

◦ Sunday, July 25, 2021 ◦

11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. 13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass. 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work. 17 Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?" 20 So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

We spend so much of our lives like we're running on a treadmill. We're doing a whole lot of moving but we're not going anywhere. But God created you for more than a treadmill existence. MISSION NOT INTERMISSION!

A mission is defined as an important task or aim that is assigned or self-imposed.

Transition: And that's where we find ourselves as we continue this journey through the book of Nehemiah. Let's recap where we are at this point in the book.

- Nehemiah desires to go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He prays for four months. The king grants his request. And now the mission begins!

CAN I SHARE WITH YOU SOME TIPS ABOUT NEHEMIAH'S MISSION THAT WILL HOPEFULLY HELP YOU WITH YOUR MISSION?

A SACRED MISSION

- “I told no one **what my God had put in my heart to do** at Jerusalem.”
- Notice how Nehemiah’s heart was aligned with the heart of God. This is key to discovering your mission and accomplishing your mission. **ALIGN YOUR HEART WITH THE HEART OF GOD!**
- Is it Christ-honoring? Is it growing me in the Fruit of the Spirit? Is it drawing me nearer to Jesus? Is it showing people the love of God in my life?
- The mission has got to be about more than money, power and respect.

A SECRET MISSION

- “Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; **I told no one** what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem.”
- Nehemiah’s mission is in its infancy.
- Some folk will talk you out of it. Some folk will pollute your dream. Some folk will throw roadblocks.

A SOCIAL MISSION

- “Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”
- The mission was too big for Nehemiah to accomplish by himself! At some point he had to get other people involved.
- What God wants to accomplish through you is not just for you! In fact, it’s too big for you to handle by yourself!
- Now you’ve got to be careful who you give access to the mission or who you let on the squad!

Let me close with the words of Nehemiah, “The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore, we His servants will arise and build.”