



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 31:10:2012

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### Study 40: NEHEMIAH - THE PERSON GOD USES

Having come to the end of our systematic studies in the book of Nehemiah, it would be profitable to take a close look at Nehemiah who is the central figure in the book, with the aim of discovering the personality traits and qualities that made him so useful in the Lord's hand. Nehemiah merits the enigmas **"battle axe in the Lord's hand"** (Jeremiah 51:20) and **"vessel of honour"** (II Timothy 2:19-21). He rose to the limelight from obscurity, and stood as it were a white lily in a marshy environment. The society is still as bad today as it was then; and God is still seeking for men and women that He can use to change things for the better (Ezekiel 22:30,23-31; Isaiah 59:16,4-15). It takes a changed man to rebuild broken lives. It requires a person with sterling qualities like Nehemiah to bring down God's mighty power and reverse the ills of the society. Let us examine some of the qualities that made him a battle-axe for God.

#### 1. HIS PERSONALITY AND COMPORTMENT

2 Corinthians 4:7

The name Nehemiah means **"Jehovah has consoled"**. What an appropriate name for the circumstances at hand. Nehemiah was a Jewish slave serving as cupbearer before Artaxerxes, the king of Babylon. The office of royal cup-bearer was a place of great honour in the Persian court. Although secularly employed under a godless monarch, Nehemiah never lost his vision of divine service. His comportment revealed that he still considered himself a part time servant of earthly monarch and a full time servant of the heavenly king. Cup-bearers were generally eunuchs. He was most likely castrated against his will, yet he never allowed earthly disappointments and sorrow to drown his heavenly aspirations and goals. When something unexpected happens, remember that **anybody can lose anything but the best is yet to come!** Very little is known about the background and physical appearance of Nehemiah, a salient reminder that **"the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart"** (I Samuel 16:7). The world runs after appearance and status but God uses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise (I Corinthians 1:27-29). He used young David, short Paul (2 Corinthians 10:10), youthful Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6-10), slave girl Esther, woman Deborah and virgin Mary etc., to accomplish His purposes. Sometimes the very stone, which the builders reject, becomes the chief cornerstone in God's hands. Today, God is still seeking for a man or woman whose heart is perfect to rescue this generation (Ezekiel 22:30). Will the Lord find you a suitable battle-axe in His hands (Jeremiah 51:20-26)? Additionally, Nehemiah was a man of stable character, sharp eyes, sharp wits, common sense, seriousness and initiative.

#### 2. HIS PATRIOTISM AND COMPASSION.

Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:1-5

Although in the king's palace, Nehemiah still identified with the plight of his nation. Many Christians seldom feel a part of the church in quite the way Nehemiah felt a part of Judah. He received visitors from his nation, enquired about the welfare of the residue of the people, and felt concerned about their condition. The report of the broken walls stirred up his bowels of compassion and moved him unto serious prayer and action that culminated in his personal involvement in the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. This was the key to his success **PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT** motivated by love. It was love

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that brought Christ to suffer and die for the sins of the world (John 3:16). It is only personal service motivated by love that will bring lasting fruits.

### **3. HIS PIETY AND CONSECRATION**

*Nehemiah 2:20; 4:14; 5:14-19; 13:14,22,31*

Nehemiah could be described as a God-fearing man. His life was carefully ordered according to the word of God. His outlook was characterised by deep faith in God. He lived a consistent life and was firm in his scriptural convictions. In times of difficulty or opposition his confidence was in God. He believed his God could provide for all his needs in the performance of his will. He turned every problem into prayer point and trusted God to provide the solutions, but he never used his faith as an escape mechanism from hard thinking and work; neither did he allow his status as leader to exempt him from common tasks to concentrate on more "important" work. His clean conduct and self-denial facilitated his victory over opposition.

### **5. HIS PRAYERFULNESS AND COURAGE.**

*Nehemiah 1:5-11; 4:4,5,9; 2:20; 4:14; 6:11; 13:15-31*

Nehemiah had a sense of team spirit. His close association with people and ability to work with them kept him in touch with reality. This generated strong feelings that motivated him to pray. His prayers were often short but fervent. He knew the vital points upon which victory hinged and prayed specifically about them. Following every prayer he was always courageous to take steps and initiatives that would solve the problems and reverse negative trends. He manifested courage in facing personal attacks and opposition from within and without. His actions reflect a willingness to deal with key issues and key people in a courageous, measured, wise and godly fashion. He never allowed threats of danger to stop obedience to God in the work, knowing fully well that nothing his enemies might suggest would render the building unnecessary. True courage does not consist in the absence of fear but in doing what God wants, even when we are afraid, disturbed and hurt (Judges 6:25-27). Proverbs 6:6-11 admonishes us to learn from the ants. If you want to learn / know how God answers prayers, study and observe how Nehemiah worked. Then apply them to your circumstances and you will see answers to prayer come pouring down like showers of rain.

### **5. HIS PERSEVERANCE AND CONCENTRATION**

*Nehemiah 4:13-23; 6:3; Proverbs 22:29; 13:15-31*

Nehemiah was a man who could diligently concentrate in His work until the chore is done. He gathered information, isolated details, established priorities, organised people and the work to achieve greater efficiency, delegated responsibility and persistently committed himself to the task till it was completed. Often he took unpopular course when he saw it to be necessary. Sometimes his vision may not be readily acceptable by the people but he persevered till the results came through. He never abandoned a project at the first signs of opposition or problem. Rather, every problem became a challenge and a stepping-stone to success. When confronted with societal ills he was earnest in reform and firm in the right.

God depended on Nehemiah to rebuild the broken walls around Jerusalem, can He depend on you to rebuild this broken world?

**MAY THE LORD DEPEND ON YOU!**

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