

20250112 Rise and Rebuild (Pray Plan Execute) – Ps Bijoy

After the Babylonian Exile, small groups of Jewish captives were allowed to return to their homeland. Nehemiah who had risen in respect and authority in the Persian Empire, was one of those who dreamed of going back home, back to Jerusalem. Last week we meditated from chapter one, and we saw how Jeremiah actively listened to the need of his people in Jerusalem and how he responded in prayer. In chapter two Nehemiah petitioned to the king and he was allowed to return to Jerusalem and king promised every support he needed to rebuild the wall.

Today let's focus on chapter 2:17-20.

“Then I said to them, you see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So, they began this good work.

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

Furthermore, there is an interesting phrase in verse 12 of the context of our passage (Nehemiah 2:17-20). “I had not told anyone what my God has put on my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on” (Nehemiah 2:12). Nehemiah wanted his project to be the right work at the right time. Success of this nature takes planning.

Prayer leads to vision

Last week we have talked about prayer. The first thing to do if you're doing anything is to pray. Sometimes we can get so excited over doing things that we can forget to put things in the hands of the Lord. Pray for wisdom, for guidance, and for God to provide all the

resources that we need, and to open doors and to put all the people in our way who God wants working in this task and to remove any plan from the enemy to stop this work for God's Kingdom. Through prayer, we align with God and His ways rather than that of the world. Proverbs 3: 5-6 says,

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Thus, prayer gives us a clear vision from the Lord regarding our situation, and we need that vision to rebuild all the broken walls. We must have a God-given vision for our lives, families, churches, and communities. Ultimately, our purpose on earth is to bring glory to God in everything we do; therefore, we must seek God for His vision in all things. I believe that our church will be a blessing to our community. So we should pray and ask how should I use my gifts to bring glory to God? How should I use my talents and abilities to share the gospel with my family members, friends, and colleagues? What is it that God wants me to do in this season? How does He want me to serve my local church? A vision doesn't always have to be as grand as becoming the prime minister or starting a billion-dollar company; it can also be something like asking God, "How do You want me to bring You glory in the situation, job, or school where You've placed me?" God may not give you the full plan for your life and what you should be doing. He will help you envision what could and should improve in various aspects of your life, such as your marriage, family, and business. That picture will come to you as a result of your walk with him.

Vision leads to planning

When we pray, God not only shows us His will but also provides for it to happen, going before us and opening doors. Proverbs 16:3 says,

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

At the core of all we do as a Church should be our love for God and people - the greatest commandments according to Jesus (Matt. 22:37-40). So scripturally planning then, is giving careful thought on how to accomplish something that helps people and brings glory to God. To be strategic in our planning is to look for the best way to accomplish it that will enable us to make optimal use of our time and resources to arrive at the best possible outcome. That, according to the Bible, is both prudent and profitable.

Furthermore, Praying helps us make the most of every opportunity as we receive the wisdom He promises to those who ask. Therefore, planning is biblical and profitable. Nehemiah prayed, had a vision, then he spoke to the king and strategically planned to execute the vision.

Planning Drives Vision into Action

Chapter 2:17 says, “Then I said to them, you see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” When God gives you a vision, you must plan and then take the step of faith into action.

God looks for one courageous man, family, or church with a vision to make a difference. And when you receive a vision from the Lord, He will bring people and provide all the resources you need for the vision.

Verse 18 says, “Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.”

However, when we take steps of faith, don't think everything is going to be okay. The enemy will try to discourage you. Chapter 2:19 says, “But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. ‘What is this you are doing?’ they asked. Are you rebelling against the king?” So in such situations praying about our planning efforts tends to bring about the right attitudes and perspective we need even when it gets stressful or difficult. The essence of Vision is the ability to see beyond our present circumstances. And the antidote for all discouragement is faith. Faith in God and in His promises. The scripture says in verse 20 “Then I replied to them, The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.” What a faith-filled statement that is! He didn’t say, ‘The king is with me, and I have all the people and resources I need.’ Instead, he said, ‘God will prosper us.’ He has total confidence in God. Therefore, a God-given vision seeks God for help, offers a solution by the grace of God, and inspires others to take action by placing faith in God.