

**October 28, 2007**

**Series: Transforming Our World for God**

**Message: #4 “There’s Nothing Like the Presence of God”**

**Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-20**

<sup>11</sup> I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

<sup>13</sup> By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; <sup>15</sup> so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup> The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

<sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

<sup>19</sup> 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?"

<sup>20</sup> 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."

### **Introduction**

- A good question to begin with: “God, Why did you create me?”
- Nehemiah found his purpose in life. What was it?
- How can an outsider come into a situation that has been a mess for 140 years and inspire, commit and rebuild a city? How does that happen?
- Here are some clues-
  1. Nehemiah did his homework (V.11-16)
  2. Nehemiah identified with the need (V.17)
  3. Nehemiah spoke to the issue behind the issue (V.17)
  4. Nehemiah had a certainty of will

- This holy discontent, holy prayer, holy nerve, is turned into a **holy conviction**.
- A holy conviction produces three things:

### **I. We must have the conviction of God's calling (V.12)**

- Ask yourself this question: "What is God setting on your heart?"
- God set a plan on Nehemiah's heart
  1. Rally the people together.
  2. Build the wall of Jerusalem.
  3. Bring Israel back together again in one place.
- If you follow Christ you have been deeply and profoundly called of God not once, but twice:
  1. Called to **forgiveness, reconciliation** with God.
  2. Called to the **purpose** for which you were saved.
- What is your purpose for living here?
  1. It means living as called individuals.
  2. It means living as a called church.

### **II. We must have the conviction of God's hand (V.18)**

- Nehemiah had the sense of God's presence in his life.
- Are we convinced God's hand is upon us?
- What tell us?
  1. When we find ourselves in a place that on our own we would never be.
  2. When we find ourselves doing what otherwise we could not do.

### **III. We must have the conviction of God's success (V.20)**

- Motion usually creates friction.
- The devil threw everything at Nehemiah when he started building the wall.
- Nehemiah would not be shaken.
- If God is in it we will advance, prosper - Just do it!

### **Conclusion**

- What is God setting on your heart?
- What vision is God giving this church family?
- It all begins with you, me and God.