

When God Makes a Way, Walk!

Nehemiah 2:1-8

1. What if no one went when God made a way?
 - a. What if Noah never built an ark?
 - b. What if Moses and the people never crossed the Red Sea?
 - c. What if Joseph divorced Mary?
 - d. What if Ananias had never ministered to Paul?
 - e. What if Christ had never gone to the cross?

2. God works in the church to bring glory to Himself before the world
 - a. But, what if God makes a way to bring glory to Himself in your life
 - b. What of God makes a way but you don't go?

3. Six Attitudes It Takes to Bring Renewal to God's People
 - a. Genuine concern for prevailing conditions that require renewal
 - b. Genuine prayer for divine intervention for renewal
 - c. Genuine boldness for removing obstacles to renewal
 - d. Genuine diligence for evaluating the extent of the need for renewal
 - e. Genuine faith for confronting the challenges to renewal
 - f. Genuine unity for implementing strategies for renewal.

4. Nehemiah's heart was broken that the condition of the church in his day obscured the glory of God
 - a. Nehemiah wept
 - b. Nehemiah prayed
 - c. Then Nehemiah offered himself as an agent for renewal
 - i. He did not simply stand by and criticize the ruined people of Jerusalem
 - ii. He did not hide in a corner and wish someone else would step forward to help the situation
 - iii. Nehemiah prayerfully waited for God to make a way, and then Nehemiah walked in the way God made.
 - (1) Four months (New Year: anniversary? Birthday?)
 - (2) Wine before him (an occasion)
 - (3) Tactful, since this was the king whose royal edict halted the most recent attempt to rebuild the wall
 - (4) Ready with a plan
 - (a) How long
 - (b) How far
 - (c) How much (Even knew the name of the Keeper of the Private Forest)

5. How can we make the most of the opportunities God provides to restore His glory among His people?
 - a. Keep God's mission in the forefront of your thinking and praying
 - b. Watch for the opportunities in your normal interactions.
 - c. Confront fear of man with faith in God.
 - d. Be clear about the outcomes you seek.
 - e. Keep grounded in the fact of God's desires for His people.
 - f. Have your plan in mind so that you can communicate it to others.
 - g. Give glory where glory is due.