

WORD

“The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Nehemiah 2:4,5

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

These verses share with us three qualities of Nehemiah that can serve as a pattern for us so that we can be moved in prayer and action to be a catalyst for change in our nation.

- **Nehemiah knew what was happening.**

The king said to me, “What is it you want?” . . .

Nehemiah 2:4

A leader is constantly aware of what is happening to the nation. More than that, as nation building is part of God’s kingdom—we, His church, are His ambassadors to our nation by being messengers of His Word and doers of what we preach (2 Corinthians 5:20). How else can we help in building our nation (Romans 13:1)?

- **Nehemiah trusted and recognized the King of kings.**

⁴. . . Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king . . .

Nehemiah 2:4,5

Nehemiah was aware that the task ahead of him was huge, even for a leader like him. However, he knew whose help he needed: not the king he was serving, but the King of kings! When we make God the hero of all our circumstances by putting our faith in Him, He will move on our behalf, enable us to act right, and guide us (2 Peter 1:3, James 1:5). What do you think will happen if God does not move at all in our situations?

- **Nehemiah knew how to act and effect change.**

. . . “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Nehemiah 2:5

As often said, the church is God’s hands and feet on earth. As we obey His Word and purposes, we bring His will to reality. Also, as leaders, we must be willing to do our part in nation building by taking on our roles as catalysts and instruments of social change. What is God’s promise to us as we take that step of faith (Matthew 28:20, Judges 6:12)?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- What particular concern does our nation need prayer for right now?
- How do you see God in the government, society, media, etc.? What do you think is He doing in these areas right now?
- How can you help effect change in your school, workplace, and community?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- What specific and practical steps can you do to effect change to this nation?
- What values and biblical principles can you share with others to encourage them to help build this nation?
- When can you commit to pray for our nation? Who can join you?