

# We Are On A Mission

## Nehemiah 2:9-20

### 1. Wise Preparation vs. 9-16

With God's favour upon Nehemiah, Nehemiah went to Jerusalem with confidence, as not only did he place his trust in God, but he took the time to prepare the governors of Trans-Euphrates for his arrival, evaluate who can be trusted, and he spent the needed time to study the destroyed walls and gates in secrecy before making any decisions or official statements to anyone.

With God's favour upon us as being the church, Jesus tells us to be prepared for the gospel mission; to "be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

Being wise with the preparation of knowing the ways of the world, understanding how people can hurt and mistreat us, observing who might have self-serving agenda, and protect ourselves and those for whom we are responsible. However, be like a dove that does not hurt others, but brings grace, beauty, and peace as we live out the gospel.

Question:

- How developed are your observation skills? Are you quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19-21)? Do you make decisions without taking time to think, observe, pray and research?

### 2. Words of Unity vs. 17-18

Nehemiah spoke to the local Jewish leadership with the purpose of becoming united in the plan that God gave him. He answered three questions: What is the plan? Why to join in doing the plan? Who gave the plan? By God's grace, the Jewish leadership were convinced and optimistic in agreeing to be united in rebuilding the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

We may not be restoring the walls surrounding Jerusalem, but we are told by Jesus to be united in serving alongside each other in bringing restoration to people's lives through word and deed. We communicate what is the gospel, why we need Jesus, and encourage other believer's to join us in the mission of restoration. (2 Corinthians 5:11-21)

Questions:

- Do our words towards our church family encourage unity?
- In what ways can we effectively communicate unity so that others will be encouraged to serve alongside us?

### **3. Working Within Boundaries vs. 19-20**

As Nehemiah began the process of initiating the building of the walls and gates, he faced opposition. However, Nehemiah stood firm with the needed boundaries that protected the unity amongst God's people, and refused to partner with those who clearly oppose the welfare of God's people.

As we live out the gospel mission, the church will face the reality of opposition from false believers (Titus 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 2:2). As the church, we need to set the needed boundaries to protect the unity of the church, and not partner with those who clearly oppose the doctrine and the welfare of God's people; the church (1 John 2:22-23; 4:1-3)

Question:

- What are the boundaries that we need today as a church to protect the unity among God's people?