



How To Build A Life: Those Who Fail To Plan

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Icebreaker:

What is one thing in life that you care passionately about?

The Study:

It's said that those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Nehemiah at last arrives at Jerusalem, but before he shares his vision with anyone, he takes a good, long, careful look around, because he's working through a plan he's laid out. Nehemiah's "7 P's Of Planning" is a good guide for any of us who want to manage our lives more fruitfully.



Program - What is it that God has put on your heart? (vss.11-12)

1. In "The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective People", Stephen Covey tells us to *Begin With The End In Mind*. Why?

2. Why can having a good mission statement for yourself or your church or your business help you keep to the program you've set out for yourself?

Preparation – What will be needed to carry this out? (vss.13-15)

3. What did Nehemiah do first (described in these verses) before talking to anyone? Why did he do this?

4. We're challenging each church member to take "prayer walks" or "prayer drives" around our community in the next few weeks. As you talk about, ask Jesus to open your eyes and hearts to things you might not have seen before. What might happen if we were to do this? Read Jeremiah 29:7, then talk about it.

Personnel – Who is going to be involved with this? (vss.16)

5. Browse quickly through chapter 3, looking at a couple of verses at random. What is Nehemiah doing in this chapter? And why do you think he is doing it?

6. Think of 5 people you could write a thank you card or a note of encouragement to this week. Write their names down below. Then, see that you do it!

Promotion & Publicity – How will you communicate the vision? (vss.17-18)

7. Nehemiah in his vision-casting message does three things. What are they? Why is Nehemiah being a winner here, and not a whiner?

Price – How much will this cost? (vss.18a)

8. Get out your phones or computers and google “Bible verses about money”. Come up with 5-7 verses that catch your eye.

9. There are two types of verses in the Bible when it comes to money: verses that teach *stewardship* (which is *using money wisely*), and verses that teach *faith* (which is *using money courageously*.) What do you think is the difference?

How do you know when should use your money wisely (in stewardship) or courageously (in faith)?

Problems – What obstacles are likely to arise? (vss.19-20)

10. If you ignore problems rather than dealing with them, what usually is the outcome?

Progress – How will we know if it's being done well? (vss.18b)

11. Why will a good plan always include a provision for evaluating progress? What happens if you don't evaluate your work?

12. God believes in our progress and growth. He believes in the progress...

Of the earth. Look up Habakkuk 2:14.

Of the church. Look up Acts 1:8.

Of my life. Look up 2 Corinthians 3:18.

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