



Week 1: Pray Boldly

“Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of this Your servant and to the prayer of Your servants who delight in revering Your name.” Nehemiah 1:11a (NIV)

A. A Marked Person

1. Favorable location and time

*“The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah. In the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa.”
Nehemiah 1:1 (NIV)*

a. Born during the Babylonian exile (444 B.C.)

b. Psalm 137 (A Journal Entry)

2. Distinguished position

“I was cupbearer to the king.” Nehemiah 1:11b (NIV)

a. A cupbearer (Genesis 41 and Daniel 1)

b. King Artaxerxes

B. A Problem

1. Hanani’s discouraging words

“They said to me, ‘Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.’” Nehemiah 1:3 (NIV)

a. Spiritual discouragement
“great trouble and disgrace...”

b. Structural discouragement
“The wall is broken down and it’s gates have been burned.”

2. Newton’s Third Law

C. A Prayer

1. Desperation

*“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven.”
Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)*

- a. Mourned
- b. Fasted
- c. Prayed

“Then I said:”

2. The God Nehemiah approached

a. Powerful
*“Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God...”
Nehemiah 1:5a (NIV)*

b. Faithful
“...Who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” Nehemiah 1:5b (NIV)

c. Forgiving
“I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against You. We have acted very wickedly toward You. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws You gave Your servant Moses.” Nehemiah 1:6b-7 (NIV)

d. Listening

“Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of Your servants who delight in revering Your name. Give Your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV)

*“Nehemiah was great in persevering with people, but before he persevered with people, he persevered with God.”
James Montgomery Boice*

D. Care Enough to Act

1. Where are you positioned?

2. What breaks your heart?

3. How are you going about it?

4. What bold prayer do you need to pray today?

“We are not called to govern, as Nehemiah did, with an iron hand; but, we ought to be equally inflexible, decided and resolute for God, and for His Holy Will.”

C. H. Spurgeon

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*

Next Sunday: Plan Intentionally (Nehemiah 2, with a focus on verses 11-20)

