

THE GATHERING OF THE INLAND VALLEY

EMPOWERED FOR RESTORATION: STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

EMPOWERED FOR THE CALL & ACTIVATING GOD'S FAVOR IN YOUR LIFE

I. LEARN TO LIVE AS A PERSON UNDER AUTHORITY!

{1:11} O' Lord, I beseech you may your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant...make your servant successful today and grant him [Nehemiah] compassion before this man [Artaxerxes]...{2:5}...If it please the King and your servant has found favor before you, send me [Nehemiah] to Judah...that I may rebuild it.

A. A person under authority knows that their favor with God connects them to favor with man.

B. A person under authority's passion is guided and directed by prayer. They understand God's favor being released in connected to prayer. Nehemiah knew he was going before the King of Persia but also knew God's hand is the one who moves the heart of the King.

Prov 21:1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

C. If you are ever going to get anything done in your life you need the favor of the king. You are not just called but you are empowered for your call. Part of your empowering is the favor of God. Favor is the greatest commodity you can possess. Your favor with God and man will open doors that only God can open.

D. Are you a person under authority? Or do you just run off in your own authority seeking to do something on your own strength. Notice Nehemiah didn't just decide on his own he was going to go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. People who are under authority desire to be sent.

E. Our success is connected to who the king is. The king is in charge [wields the power].

2:7-8 ...If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces...let me pass...letter to Asaph...that he may give me timber for the gates of the fortress...and the walls of the city...and the king granted...good hand of my God was upon me.

F. Nehemiah wasn't just satisfied to be sent by the King but desired to be fully authorized and empowered to fulfill the purpose he was being sent to accomplish. Favor with God activated favor with the king. Wait and pray for the favor of God to be released upon your task or you will fail. Success is connected to favor, period. Sometimes we have everything else we need except the favor of God. Favor releases things.

G. Passion [Jerusalem v.1:4, 2:3]-Prayer & Fasting [1:4, 2:11]-Activating Favor [1:11; 2:5, 2:6, 2:7]

II. FIND GOD; FIND FAVOR!

Proverbs 8:35 "For he who finds me [God] finds life And obtains favor from the LORD.

A. Those who begin finding God everywhere and in everything will begin to start turning the key of favor in their life.

B. Begin finding God everywhere by looking for Him everywhere and in everything. Learn to discover His fingerprints, His movements, His breath, His clues, His being all around you.

Acts 17:28 In Him we live, we move, and have our being...

1 Samuel 2:26 Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

C. Unless favor is activated you will not fulfill your purpose and/or destiny. The favor of God on your life is resting on your purpose, on your destiny.

D. Be like Nehemiah whose passions were connected to prayer which activated favor in his life. We need to learn how to activate the key of favor in your life or we only continue to push away the blessings God is trying to send our way. Some of us are pushing away more blessing than we apprehending.

E. Learn to be sticky with God's favor and like Teflon with evil.

1 Corinthians 14:20⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

F. Don't let the blessings pass you by. Why should they?

a. Lack wisdom-Ask God [James]

b. Wrong path-Self/idolatry

c. Wage the good warfare and expand your prophetic vision [1 Tim 1:18]

III. GET A GOD DREAM!

A. Your destiny and call will always be connected to something that is bigger than yourself. God is not going to give you something to accomplish for Him which can be accomplished in your own strength and effort. God is not going to give you something that doesn't need or include Him in order to accomplish it.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think[imagine], according to the power that works within us,

B. It takes God to serve God. It takes God to please God.

Philippians 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

C. Your call and your destiny will always be connected to a cause-a cause centered, rooted, and grounded in His kingdom [a cause for Christ sake]

Habakkuk 2:1-2 I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply^[a] when I am reproved. Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That^[b] the one who^[c] reads it may run."

D. Learn to cultivate vision and take action. Wishing and good intentions is not enough.

E. Again favor must be activated and flowing in order that the favor with man component is operational for this is where the Lord releases provision [letters of authorization 2:7-8] to empower you to complete the work.

IV. LEARN TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE KING!

A. Typologically speaking favor is released by the king.

B. When you learn to be faithful to the king [under authority] then when you are not expecting it the Lord will release something to you that you are not sure exactly why it is being released to you in that moment and/or season. But be ready for it. Expect the unexpected.

C. We are being given the architecture and/or technology for restoration.

a. Restoration of alters, walls, and gates

1. Selves
2. Families
3. Neighborhoods and spheres of influence
4. Communities and cities
5. Near and far [domestic and foreign]