

Who was Nehemiah?

In 444 B.C., Nehemiah (the cupbearer to the king of Persia) traveled to Jerusalem to help the Jews rebuild the city's walls. Until then, the walls had been in ruin for several decades. Under Nehemiah's leadership, they were able to be rebuilt in a mere 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15).

This is indeed one of the inspiring stories in the Bible. It demonstrates just how great of a man Nehemiah was. Consider qualities that he possessed that we need to imitate today.

I. He was a man of prayer.

- A. This is something that we find Nehemiah doing all throughout the book.
 - 1. He does it when first learning of the problems in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4-11).
 - 2. He does it before making his request before the king (Nehemiah 2:4-5).
 - 3. He does it each time he is persecuted by his enemies (Nehemiah 4:4, 9; 6:14).
 - 4. He does it when dealing with problems among his brethren (Nehemiah 5:19; 13:31).
- B. We need to follow his example (1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Peter 5:6-7).

II. He was a man of concern.

- A. He cared about God's people and their progress in Jerusalem.
 - 1. He cared enough to ask about them (Nehemiah 1:2).
 - 2. He cared enough to weep and mourn over their situation (Nehemiah 1:3).
 - 3. The Apostle Paul had a similar spirit (2 Corinthians 11:28-29).
- B. God also expects us to have an emotional investment in His work.

III. He was a man of action.

- A. Nehemiah didn't just pray about the situation in Jerusalem. He also personally traveled there and helped make things better.
 - 1. He organized an effort to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.
 - 2. He motivated the people to "arise and build" (Nehemiah 2:18).
- B. Like Nehemiah, do we also care enough about the word of God to volunteer our services?

IV. He was a man of perseverance.

- A. Despite all the obstacles Nehemiah faced, he never quit.
 - 1. He persevered despite being mocked (Nehemiah 4:1-3).
 - 2. He persevered despite attempts at his life (Nehemiah 6:1-3).
 - 3. He persevered despite attempts to diminish his influence (Nehemiah 6:10-14).
- B. God expects all of His people to possess this quality (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Peter 1:5-8).

V. He was a man of righteousness.

- A. Upon returning to Jerusalem 12 years later, Nehemiah found the people immersed in sin.
 - 1. Eliashib was allowing Tobiah to stay in the temple (Nehemiah 13:4).
 - 2. The officials were neglecting the temple (Nehemiah 13:10-11).
 - 3. The Sabbath was not being kept (Nehemiah 13:15).
 - 4. The people were intermarrying with heathens (Nehemiah 13:23).
- B. Nehemiah dealt with all of these sins of the people courageously (Nehemiah 13:8-9)! God expects us to have a similar attitude (Galatians 6:1).

Conclusion: Do you need to deal with sin problems?