

## Mission Impossible – Nehemiah 1:11-2:8

Have you ever asked the question “What am I doing here?”  
“Why God, would You put me in this situation, at this time?”  
“What purpose could You possibly have for me right here & right now?”

What do these kinds of questions reveal about us?

- **We are human!** God’s plan is greater than our understanding of it!
- It takes great faith for us to trust God and His sovereign plan!

Will we dare to believe, when we are in those moments of questioning, that God has truly placed us exactly where we are, in those very moments, in accordance with His good redemptive purposes, for our lives and for others?

Nehemiah is a great example of this! God’s good redemptive purposes came about precisely because of his current situation as cupbearer to the king?

- **His position gave him access to the king!** – Vs. 1
- His relationship to the king granted him not only permission to return to Jerusalem but also the supplies needed for the journey. – Vs. 4-7
- The king also provided for the needs of the building project. – Vs. 8

All of this, & all that was still yet to come for Nehemiah, was made possible b/c of **where God had placed him and how he lived into his current situation!**

The whole book of Nehemiah is about this man who fulfilled God’s great purpose by being diligent with what God had put right in front of him to do.

**Something for us to consider:** Maybe God’s good purpose in our lives is not a change in our circumstances, but **to use our circumstances to change & use us!**

**What can we learn about living into God’s redemptive purpose from Nehemiah’s “Mission Impossible” example in Ch. 2?**

- **Be about the obligations God has already given to you!** – Vs. 1

Nehemiah could have begrudgingly gone about his work as a cupbearer, saying “If only my circumstances were different then...” “If only...”

Nehemiah was used by God precisely b/c of the position he already had.  
*What positions do you fill? What are your obligations?*

There is great purpose to be found right where you are. Trust that God’s redemptive plan includes you being faithful in your current context.

- **Opportunities will arise out of faithfulness to your obligations!**

Faithfulness in cupbearing led to being sent to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Faithfulness in rebuilding the walls led to the rebuilding of God’s people.

What was the point of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25?

**If you are faithful w/what God has given you, He will give you more!**

*Ask God for opportunities as you live into what He already has for you!*

- **Observe the needs that God reveals around you & be moved by them!**

It was the need of the people & of the place of God’s dwelling that wrecked Nehemiah, and God used that to move him into action. – Vs. 3-5

*What are the needs that you see around you? Will you be a part of the solution?*

- **Obtain what is necessary to succeed where God calls you.**

Nehemiah had a plan before God opened the door of opportunity! Vs. 4-8  
So when the opportunity came, Nehemiah was ready to step into it!

*What can you do today that will prepare you for what God has for you tomorrow?*

- **Offer up praise to the One who makes the inconceivable possible!**

*“And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.” – Vs. 8* Nehemiah knew who made this possible!

**Ephesians 3:20-21** Do we believe this to be true for us today?

*What prayer have you not prayed b/c you didn’t think the answer was possible?*

There is no better example of someone who played a significant role in the bringing about of God’s amazing redemptive story by simply being faithful in the place where God had put him, than Nehemiah!

But, your name doesn’t have to be Nehemiah, & your job doesn’t have to be “cupbearer to the king” **for God to use you to make His “mission possible!”**

Let us be about our obligations, and keep our eyes open for opportunities. Let’s observe the needs around us, pray & then put a God-sized plan in place. Let us trust God to obtaining what is needed to succeed in this, & be ready to offer up praise to Him who will do immeasurably more than we can imagine.

Nehemiah prayed, planned & prepared for 4-5 months before God moved!

*Will we be that devoted as we seek God’s redemptive purposes today?*

God can truly make “mission impossible” possible! **Will we join Him?**

## 1-14-18 Mission Impossible – Nehemiah 1:11-2:8

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