



# Sermon Outline

June 14, 2009

## The Time for Talk is Over

### I. Confidence in God

Nehemiah 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup> I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

### II. A Survey of the Damage

Nehemiah 2:13-14

<sup>13</sup> By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal <sup>[a]</sup> Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through;

1. Can be painful.
2. People were used to defeat.
3. Honest assessment.
4. Count the cost – Luke 14:28 - <sup>28</sup>"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"

### III. Character of Nehemiah

Nehemiah 2:15-16

<sup>15</sup> so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup> The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

### IV. Grace is the Key

1. Humility
2. Time to do something – Nehemiah 2:17 - <sup>17</sup> Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."
3. Work was God's grace  
Nehemiah 2:18 - <sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2:5 - <sup>5</sup> and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

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Nehemiah 2:8 - <sup>8</sup> And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests

4. Nehemiah became an agent of change

V. Grace Killers

Nehemiah 2:19-10

<sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" <sup>20</sup> I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

