

Are You Ready For the Blank Check?

Nehemiah 2:1-9

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Ice Breaker: What is the most surprising or outrageous gift you've ever been given?

BIG IDEA: Nehemiah prayed *and* planned for 4 months leading up to his conversation with the king – such that when Artaxerxes asked him, “What do you want?” Nehemiah already knew how he was going to fill out the blank check. Likewise, we need to be praying *and* planning for how we'll respond when God puts a Kingdom-opportunity (“blank check” or “open door”) before us.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Nehemiah 2:1-2. What is that Nehemiah is feeling? What kind of emotions would you have been feeling if you were Nehemiah – and you were getting ready to ask King Artaxerxes to reverse his decision about rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem?
- 2) Read Nehemiah 2:3-5. Nehemiah is very afraid, and yet he does what he needs to do anyway. Describe a time when you were afraid of doing something God wanted you to do – but you did it anyway. What happened? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself?
- 3) Read Nehemiah 2:6-9. What does the preciseness of Nehemiah's list of requests tell us he was doing during those 4 months leading up to this conversation with the king? What does this tell us about the relationship between praying and planning – in God's Kingdom?
- 4) What is one situation or cause that you're praying about – for which you could also be planning? In other words, are you preparing for how you will respond if God gives you a blank check or an open door – with regard to this situation that is burdening your heart?