

*Keepers of the Gospel*  
*Reflections on Nehemiah*  
**Nehemiah 2.1-10**

Last week, we observed Nehemiah's response to the shocking news that the walls around Jerusalem, that protected the city and its temple, were in ruins. After wiping up his tears, he turned to prayer. This week, we focus specifically on his prayer request, and what he did after stating his request. Since so many Christians feel paralyzed when making choices, watch and learn from Nehemiah's example. It's important, because the work of the gospel needs you too!

Pastor Eric

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### **Our Responsibility for the Gospel**

The temple in Jerusalem is built, but vulnerable, because the walls around the city are compromised. Since in our time, the church is the temple (1 Corinthians 3.16-17), what are some modern parallels where our work feels unprotected or compromised? In what ways do you personally feel responsibility for "protecting, living, and sharing" the gospel entrusted to the church?

Nehemiah prays about the situation in Jerusalem, but he already knows that he will act. Why do you think many Christians struggle with taking action after praying about a particular situation?

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### **Action vs. Waiting for God's Will**

Have you ever felt stuck waiting for clear direction from God before doing something? What did that experience feel like?

Pastor Eric challenged the idea that God's will is about choosing the "right door" among various options before you, as if there is only one correct door. Do you think that's the most accurate assessment of the biblical evidence? Why?

How might understanding God's will as being about "how you live" rather than "what exact choice you make" change your decision-making process?

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### **Trusting God with the Process**

Trusting God with the *details*, especially the timing, is easier said than done. Why is waiting often one of the hardest parts of faith? Can you share a time when you had to wait on something important? What did that season produce in you?

Nehemiah experiences an unexpected opportunity when the king initiates the conversation. Have you ever seen a surprising "open door" after stepping out in faith?

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### **Stepping Out & Living It**

What are some practical ways to "do something" for the cause of gospel work in everyday life? What is one specific step you feel prompted to take right now—however small—in joining God's work? What are you waiting for?