

TRAVAILING ACTION

NEHEMIAH 2:1-15 / TED HARRIS / SEPT 17, 2023



We have reached the point of Nehemiah's story where the traveling is transitioning to action. God is revealing a vision for the city and Nehemiah must choose to answer the call or remain a cupbearer. And while Nehemiah's story cannot be a formula for how God will always work in our traveling, there are some principles that we can learn from.

God's Vision requires God's Provision and the People's Revision.

"Prayer in any form, by anybody, is God's invitation to pull up a chair to the table and enjoy restful, intimate, unbroken conversation with the triune God. Or as Jesus succinctly said it, "Knock and the door will be opened to you."

Tyler Staton, Pray Like Monks, Live Like Fools

God's Vision

A clear vision of what is wrong

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, "the spiritual crisis overtaking the West is the most serious since the fall of the Roman Empire. The light of Christianity is flickering out all over the West. There are people alive today who may live to see the effective death of Christianity within our civilization. By God's mercy, the faith may continue to flourish in the Global South and China, but barring a dramatic reversal of current trends, it will all but disappear entirely from Europe and North America. This may not be the end of the world but the end of a world and only the willfully blind would deny it."

A clear vision of what God wants

God's Provision

People's Revision

"If we want to survive, we have to return to the roots of our faith, both in thought and in practice. We are going to have to learn habits of the heart for gotten by believers in the West. We are going to have to change our lives and our approach to life, in radical ways. In short, we are going to have to be the church, without compromise, no matter what it costs."

Rod Dreher, The Benedict Option

Revisioning my Time

Revisioning my Resources

Revisioning my Place in the kingdom

God's Vision requires God's Provision and the People's Revision.