

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- July 16th, 2014

"God Honors A Plan"

I want to step out of my usually devotional box and talk about Order and Organization. If you read the book of Nehemiah 2: 4-8, 10, it will give you a basic understanding of how Nehemiah prepared for a tough job. The account of his preparedness reveals what could be considered to be Four Timeless Principles for getting started God's way.

- I. **God's Specialty is Changing of Hearts**: Do not try to change people to fit your specifications. Don't try to manipulate people, play games, plan schemes, think or deceive them. Here's A Big One! Don't work the Crowd! That's terrible stuff! Present the facts and let God take care of the heart. Then when change comes, God alone will get all the glory.

- II. **Praying and Waiting go hand in hand**: You have never really prayed until you have learned to wait - and to wait with release. Abandon yourself. Allow God to change the leader's heart. This is tough. It cuts across the grain of our human nature. But stand firmly. Give up your own agenda and homemade solutions. Allow God to take charge – NOT YOU!

- III. **Faith is not a Synonym for disorder or a Substitute for careful planning**. In college, one of my professors said that the first law of heaven is Order. God honors orderly thinking. He isn't pleased when we expect Him to spare us the pain of failure when we haven't even considered the cost of success. Of course, He does not want us to fail, but He is pleased when we plan and succeed.

- IV. **Opposition is to be expected when God's Will is carried out**: When a person knows He is following God's will, it is unusual if there is not at least one person who opposes him/her. I have rarely known it to be otherwise.

Nehemiah is like one of us. He meets us right where we live. When he was afraid, he said: "Lord, give me the words to say." He was a man of faith, yet he carefully, balanced faith with realism...He thought through the expected difficulties. He was a man of indomitable courage.

(Adapted from "Hand Me Another Brick")

See you in church Sunday.

Have a blessed week!

Pastor Sewdin