

**“The Importance Of Vision”**  
**Nehemiah 2 \* January 17, 2010**

From last week: 3 Attitudes To Have For Life-Change

- A. Holy \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Personal \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Seek God’s \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
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**For Life-Change To Be Successful We Must...**

I. ...Acquire A New Vision, Which Is The Ability To See New \_\_\_\_\_

A. “I was cupbearer to the king.”  
What else was in Nehemiah’s heart?

B. A lesson from “The Lion King”  
“You are \_\_\_\_\_ than you have \_\_\_\_\_.”

C. What visions would God stir up inside of you today if you let him?

II. ...Allow Time For Vision To \_\_\_\_\_ Inside Of Us

A. What does ‘gestate’ mean?

“To \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ inside a womb.”

B. How much time did Nehemiah allow before he acted?

C. What do we need to do during this gestation time?

1. Count the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Contemplate the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Calculate the \_\_\_\_\_.

D. What huge issue did Nehemiah have to work on to get what he wanted? Why was this a huge issue?

III. ...Allow Our Vision To \_\_\_\_\_ A Meaningful \_\_\_\_\_

A. What put us on the moon?

B. How do we know that Nehemiah had a plan worked out in his mind?

C. “But planning is unspiritual. We should just trust God.”  
What might Nehemiah say in response to this?

D. Planning should be an ordinary regular part of life.  
How does planning honor God?

E. When we don’t plan things out and things fall apart, will God save us from the consequences?

F. Ideas have consequences. Case study: the Jewish people.  
What’s so remarkable about them?

And why is this so?

What might God be speaking into my life today?

## **“The Importance Of Vision”**

### **Nehemiah 2 \* January 17, 2010**

From last week: 3 Attitudes To Have For Life-Change

- A. Holy **Discontent**
  - B. Personal **Commitment** & **Discipline**
  - C. Seek God’s **Presence** & **Power**
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### **For Life-Change To Be Successful We Must...**

#### **I. ...Acquire A New Vision, Which Is The Ability To See New Possibilities**

- A. “I was cupbearer to the king.”  
What else was in Nehemiah’s heart?  
**A future city-builder. And a governor.**
- B. A lesson from “The Lion King”  
“You are **more** than you have **become**.”
- C. What visions would God stir up inside of you today if you let him?

#### **II. ...Allow Time For Vision To Gestate Inside Of Us**

- A. What does ‘gestate’ mean?  
“To **Conceive** and **Develop** inside a womb.”
- B. How much time did Nehemiah allow before he acted?  
**Four months.**
- C. What do we need to do during this gestation time?
  1. Count the **cost**.
  2. Consider the **consequences**.
  3. Contemplate the **challenges**.
  4. Calculate the **commitment**.

D. What huge issue did Nehemiah have to work on to get what he wanted? Why was this a huge issue?

**The king. Because kings back then had absolute power over their subjects’ lives, and they could cut off your head without warning if they felt like it. You had to tread carefully.**

#### **III. ...Allow Our Vision To Birth A Meaningful Plan**

- A. What put us on the moon?  
**JFK’s vision combined with a decade of NASA study, research, planning and experiments.**
- B. How do we know that Nehemiah had a plan worked out in his mind?  
**He was able to answer every one of the questions the king asked him.**

C. “But planning is unspiritual. We should just trust God.”  
What might Nehemiah say in response to this?

**Planning honors God. Because if you haven’t noticed, God doesn’t give us all the answers to life up front. What he often says to us instead is, ‘How about using that big, beautiful brain I gave you?’ God didn’t say to Adam, “Alright, tomorrow at 2:00 in the afternoon, Satan is going to try and tempt your wife, and you need to take him right out.” Adam had already been given the charge by God to exercise authority over every creeping thing, so all he had to do was think this through. He didn’t need God to sing it for him. Instead, he stood there and let Eve get raked over the coals by Satan and did nothing.**

D. Planning should be an ordinary regular part of life.  
How does planning honor God?

**He created us in his image, and with that image comes the power to reason and think things through. God called us to “fill the earth and subdue it”, but it didn’t give us an encyclopedia to give us all the answers. We had to get out there and figure things out “on our own” (though he was always with us.)**

*E. When we don't plan things out and things fall apart, will God save us from the consequences?*

**No. This earthquake in Haiti is devastating, and we need to help. This is New Orleans after Katrina times a thousand. Our hearts go out to those who are suffering. But building up a city of stone on a major geologic faultline and completing disregarding the laws of science and engineering is just ringing the dinnerbell for disaster. And it's only compounded by the incomprehensible, unbreakable cycle of poverty which has plagued Haiti for two centuries. New York Times columnist David Brooks in his latest column quotes from a book analyzing the problems in Haiti. "Haiti, like most of the world's poorest nations, suffers from a complex web of progress-resistant cultural influences. There is the influence of voodoo religion, which spreads the message that life is capricious and planning futile. There are high levels of social mistrust. Responsibility is not internalized."**

*F. Ideas have consequences. Case study: the Jewish people. What's so remarkable about them?*

**David Brooks wrote about how Israel is becoming a new silicon valley in recent years. He begins the article citing these statistics. "Jews make up .2 percent of the world population, but 54% of the world chess champions, 27% of the Nobel physics laureates, 31% of the medicine laureates. They make up 2% of the US populations but 21% of the Ivy League student bodies, 26% of the Kennedy Center honorees, 38% of Business Week's list of leading philanthropists, 51% of the Pulitzer Prize winners for nonfiction."**

*And why is this so?*

**What explains such prodigious accomplishments? Holding to the right ideas about how life is best lived, that's how. These are the descendants of Nehemiah, after all. They've been taught well. They understand the importance of having vision for their lives and allowing that vision to give birth to meaningful plans.**

*What might God be speaking into my life today?*