

Nehemiah Lesson 4

Building Ministry Through Planning 2 – Count the Cost

Day 1 Read Nehemiah 2:9-20 Expect Opposition

1. An important part of planning is counting the cost. Christ says in Luke 14:28, **“for which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to build it?”** Give some examples of real dangers when we build ministry without counting the cost. _____

2. Part of counting the cost in ministry means expecting opposition. We expect opposition to come from the outside (the world), but often times it comes from within our own camp. (v. 10) What might this opposition look like today? (2 Tim 2:14-19) _____

3. Understanding this, why is it essential that we train those in our body to shepherd well rather than just utilize their gift? _____

4. Since all believers are called to be in ministry, all will face opposition (2 Tim 3:12). Read Mark 8:34 and write a sentence or two on how you would explain to someone what they can expect as a Christian. _____

Day 2 Read Nehemiah 2:9-20 Include Examination

1. What is the first thing Nehemiah does when he arrives in Jerusalem? Why doesn't he use his big arrival to announce his plan? _____

2. Read verses 12-15 carefully. Nehemiah is examining **“broken down walls”** to know best how to rebuild. Compare this with understanding the American church today. What would examination look like as we plan to rebuild? _____

3. Examination requires “**punching holes in the plan**” and learning to “**expect the unexpected**”. If we spend time in examination, we can better assimilate before we motivate. Why will this make us more effective shepherds when things get tough and sheep get rattled? Explain. _____
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Day 3 Read Nehemiah 2:9-20 Instill Motivation

1. Nehemiah motivates intrinsically, “that is from within”. He sets their eyes on something bigger than themselves – God’s glory. Explain how he does this using verse 17. Focus on his understanding of the word “disgrace” or “reproach”. _____
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2. Even though he is the leader, he is one of them. (v. 17) Part of his motivation comes from identifying himself with the problem, as well as the solution. How would you do the same with regards to making disciples? _____
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Day 4 Read Nehemiah 2:9-20 Engage Opposition

1. What are some ways Nehemiah could have responded to the opposition from the “Axis of Evil” in verse 19? _____
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2. How instead does he respond in verse 20? Rewrite his response in modern day terms as though you were encountering opposition to making disciples. (example of opposition: “You are getting too personal.” “That’s your interpretation of the Bible.”)
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3. What is a specific way you can encourage others in your small group to be willing to risk opposition, discouragement and pain in order to make disciples of others? _____
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