

Recap of 11/25/18 (Nehemiah 2:1-9):

1. C. S. Lewis made the point in **Mere Christianity** that our minds have to be occupied with heaven to make the most impact upon this present world. He said: "It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in;' aim at earth and you will get neither."

2. Nehemiah exemplifies this principle and demonstrates to us that if we want to be the most effective leader we can, we must be in touch with heaven.

3. In chapter two Nehemiah has his opportunity, after four months of night and day prayer, to present the need to King Artaxerxes and to request to be allowed to go to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls and bring it the security and prestige it deserves, under God.

4. Donald K. Campbell in his book, **Nehemiah: Man in Charge**, lists twenty-one characteristics of effective leadership exhibited by Nehemiah (cited in the Bible Knowledge Commentary). A partial list follows:

- He patiently waited for God's timing
- He showed respect to his superior and went through proper channels.
- He prayed at crucial times.
- He made his request with tact and graciousness.
- He was well prepared and thought of his needs in advance.
- He took time (three days) to rest, pray, and plan.
- He investigated the situation firsthand.
- He identified himself as one with the people.
- He set before them a reasonable and attainable goal.
- He assured them God was in the project.
- He did not argue with opponents.
- He was not discouraged by opposition.