

**PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE**  
**#SermonPlanning**  
**Growing Through Goal Setting - Part 3**  
**Dr. Mark Jackson - January 15, 2017**  
**Nehemiah 2:1-8**

**WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO PLAN**

- **BECAUSE GOD DOES IT** - Jeremiah 29:11
- **BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT** - Proverbs 16:9
- **BECAUSE GOD BLESSES IT** - Prov 16:3

**WHAT STEPS TO TAKE**

**1. THINK IT THROUGH**

**Nehemiah 2:1** In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before. (NIV)

**Proverbs 13:16** A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't and even brags about it! (LB)

**2. TRUST GOD WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID**

**Nehemiah 2:2-4** so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid,<sup>3</sup> but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"<sup>4</sup> The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven. (NIV)

**Psalms 56:3** When I am afraid, I will trust in you. (NIV)

**3. ESTABLISH A GOAL**

**Nehemiah 2:5** And I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." (NIV)

**1 Corinthians 9:26a** So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. (LB)

**4. SET A DEADLINE**

**Nehemiah 2:6** Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. (NIV)

**Psalms 90:12** Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. (NLT)

## **5. ANTICIPATE THE PROBLEMS**

**Nehemiah 2:7** I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?" (NIV)

**Proverbs 22:3** A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. (LB)

## **6. PREPARE FOR SUCCESS**

**Nehemiah 2:8** And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. (NIV)

**Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is like a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. (NRSV)

**Proverbs 16:1** We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God's hands. (LB)