



“Dealing with Addiction”

Nehemiah 2: 9 When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I delivered the king's letters to them. The king, ***I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me.***

“The King also had send army officers and Cavalry with me” (Verse).

1. Situation - Support & “Just Do It” Action

Nehemiah worked in Susa as a cup-bearer for the king of the vast Mido-Persian Empire. When he heard that the rebuilding projects in Jerusalem were progressing slowly, he asked the king if he could go there to help his people complete the task of rebuilding their city's walls. The king agreed to let him go; so he left as soon as possible, traveling along much the same route Ezra had taken.

We all need support / assistance / Help / Aid

Nehemiah had only asked the King for letters to the governors providing him safe-conduct on the road. But the King was wise enough to know that Nehemiah would need extra protection along the way, so he sent armed guards to accompany him. **In the same way, the addict will ample outside support on their journey to recovery.**

The addict may be tempted to allow pride to lead him into isolation, but the moment he does he becomes vulnerable to destruction. **The recovering addict must stick with a band of people willing to fight for is freedom and wellbeing. This accountability group must not be one person -it must be a force of many warriors. Hebrews 1:25 - And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**

- To neglect Christian meetings is to give up the encouragement and help of other Christians.
- **We gather together to share our faith and to strengthen one another in the Lord.**
- As we get closer to the day when Christ will return, we will face many spiritual struggles, and even times of persecution.
- Anti-Christian forces will grow in strength.
- **Difficulties should never be excuses for missing church services.**
- Rather, as difficulties arise, we should make an even greater effort to be faithful in attendance.

2. Just Do It

Nehemiah 2: 18 - Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let's rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.

Nehemiah told the Jews what he had in mind and they replied by saying, "Let's Start!"

- **People are not God to know what transpires in your mind or life**
- Don't let people start presuming and attempting to help you without revealing what exactly is your real fight.

There was no elaborately laid out plan; there was no detailed instruction. They just decided to show up and begin, ready to trust the Lord and do whatever he required of them.

- **The addict must not wait until they are in the "right place" to get well.** That right place does not exist - **any place is the right place to start your recovery process.** The work out begin immediately, without delay.
- Like the disciples of Christ, **they must show up ready to follow wherever He leads,** to knowing all the places the journey will take them. **The addict can have an idea of the goal, but will not know all the steps in store for him from addiction recovery**

***Proverbs 16:9** We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.*

- In His heart, a man plan his course, but the Lord determines his steps
- The person in whom God delights is one who follows God, trusts him, and tries to do his will.
- God watches over and makes firm every step that person takes.
- If you would like to have God direct your way, then seek his advice before you step out.

***Jeremiah 10:23** - I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course.*

- **God's ability to direct our lives is far superior to our ability.**
- Sometimes we are afraid of God's power and God's plans because we know his power would easily crush us if he used it against us.
- Don't be afraid to let God correct your plans. He will give you wisdom if you are willing.
- We are often confused by the events around us.
- Some things we will never understand; others will fall into place in years to come as we look back and see how God was working.
- **Do not to worry if we don't understand everything as it happens. Instead, we should trust that God knows what he's doing, even if his timing or design is not clear to us.**

Song: Oh, God will make a way; Where there seems to be no way; He works in ways we cannot see; He will make a way for me; He will be my guide; Hold me closely to His side; With love and strength for each new day; He will make a way, He will make a way. **By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me; And rivers in the desert will I see; Heaven and Earth will fade but His word will still remain; And He will do something new today.**