<u>Ezra-Nehemiah Part 9</u>

Major Theme
Prayer is the foundation of planning and ministry

Pray before you act - Nehemiah 1:11-2:1
- 1 Peter 3:13-17

Pray to receive courage - Nehemiah 2:1-3
- Nehemiah is risking:
    - Job
    - Freedom
    - Life

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Pray before you plan - Nehemiah 2:4-8
- James 4:13-17

Pray to learn God's will - Nehemiah 2:9-15
- "This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." // 1 John 5:14-15 (CSB)
- "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me on level ground." // Psalm 143:10 (CSB)

Pray before you speak - Nehemiah 2:16-18
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Pray so you don't quit - Nehemiah 2:19-20
- "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." // 2 Timothy 4:7 (CSB)
- "Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize." // 1 Corinthians 9:24 (CSB)
- "Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up." // Galatians 6:9 (CSB)