

## DEALING WITH SUPERIORS – Nehemiah 2:1-8

### Lesson 3

- I. Nehemiah's challenges in carrying out his visions
  - A. The challenge of balancing **initiative** and **accountability**
  - B. The challenge of the **historical context**
- II. Nehemiah's character traits that lead to success in dealing with his superior
  - A. Nehemiah showed **learning** and **loyalty**.
  - B. Nehemiah showed **tact** and **timing**.

*"If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive."*

*Dale Carnegie*

- 1. Waiting for God's **timing**
- 2. Answered a **question** with a **question**
- 3. Presented his desire as **personal** not **political**
- 4. Didn't actually mention Jerusalem, an **enemy** from the **past**
- C. Nehemiah showed humility and honesty.
  - 1. Two responses
    - a. **Humble** to his reader
    - b. **Honest** to the king
  - 2. Responded **directly** to the king's **question**
- D. Nehemiah showed purpose and planning.

*"People who aim at nothing, are sure to hit it" Unknown*

  - 1. Purpose – to **rebuild**
  - 2. Planning – how to **carry** out that **goal**
- E. Nehemiah gave control and credit to God.
  - 1. Understood that God is in **control** of **history**

*"Nehemiah sends God an on the spot plea, 'a prayergram.'" Cyril J. Barber*
  - 2. Gave God the **credit**