CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

"IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?"

"RENEWAL" – PT. 2

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TURNING THE DREAM IN TO REALITY

1. _____ AND PLAN

NEH 2:1-4a (NIV) 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; 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, 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?" The king said to me, "What is it you want?"

2. _____ OUT IN OBEDIENCE

NEH 2:4b (NIV) Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 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."

NEH 2:7-8 (NLT, NIV) I also said to the king, "If it please Your Majesty, give me letters to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. And please send a letter to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself…." And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.

3. _____ THE SITUATION

NEH 2:11-15 (NLT) Three days after my arrival at Jerusalem, I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us, except the donkey that I myself was riding. I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble.

1. _____ THE VISION

*NEH 2:16-17 (NIV) The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. Then I said to them, "You see the trouble **we** are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let **us** rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and **we** will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.*

2. _____ TO WORK

NEH 2:17b. (NIV) They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

6. _____ THE RESISTANCE

NEH 2:19 (NIV) But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

NEH 2:20 (NIV) I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

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Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions …

1. What's one of your pet peeves – something that just drives you crazy?
2. What's a dream you'd love to see come true in your lifetime?
3. Have you identified a holy discontent in your life – a passion that God has given you?
4. If so, what have you done with that passion up to this point?
5. What's the next step in seeing your dream become a reality?
6. Have you ever faced resistance when you began to get closer to God? How so?