Sunday, February 9, 2020

Risking Comfort for Lasting Contribution

Nehemiah 2:1-8

David H. McKinley

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"The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing and becomes nothing. They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they simply cannot learn and feel and change and grow and love and live."
—Leo Buscagilia

[1]In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of
King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the
wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his
presence. [2]And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad,
seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the
heart." Then I was very much afraid. [3]I said to the king, "Let
the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the
city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates
have been destroyed by fire?" —Nehemiah 2:1-3

1. Trust God's Timing

"The teaching of Scripture is that a delayed answer does not indicate an unwilling God." —Ray Steadman

2. Prepare for God's Prompting

"Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." —T.S. Eliot

[4]Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So
I prayed to the God of heaven. [5]And I said to the king, "If it
pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your
sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers'
graves, that I may rebuild it."—Nehemiah 2:4-5

"In the simplest terms, a leader is one who knows where he wants to go and gets up and goes." —John Erskine

[3]Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be
established… [9]The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD
establishes his steps. —Proverbs 16:3, 9

Notes:

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? —Luke 14:28

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. —Proverbs 19:21

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

3. Go With the Good Hand of God

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me. —Nehemiah 2:8b

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. —Isaiah 41:10

You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. —Psalm 16:11

[28]I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. [29]My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. —John 10:28-29

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you. —1 Peter 5:6

[4]But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5]to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. —Galatians 4:4-5

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WARREN
A WAY OF LIFE

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