

HAND ME ANOTHER BRICK – Part IV
“Planning Matters”

Reference: **Nehemiah 2:1-9**
Pastor Larry Webb

Nehemiah was in the palace at Shushan waiting for God to act. He had just heard about the destruction in Jerusalem after his brother and some friends came to see him in the month of Chislew (December). It was now Nisan (April) and he was still waiting.

God does answer prayer, but sometimes He makes us wait for His answer. Please notice how God answers prayer in relation to time.

- Sometimes God’s answer is _____ or even sooner.
References: **Matthew 6:8; Isaiah 65:24** (see screen)
- Sometimes God’s answer is _____ for a period of time.
Reference: **Luke 1:5-13**

There are two sides to prayer: a divine side and a human side and there are four progressive stages on the human side:

Stage 1) _____ – This is a sincere conscious admission.

Stage 2) _____ – This is when our will is in absolute and total submission to God’s will.

Stage 3) _____ – This is the actual act of asking God for something; i.e. praying

Stage 4) _____ – This is the time between the moment we ask and the moment God answers.

Nehemiah was a master planner and this passage gives us some strategic insight into how Nehemiah planned.

Three reasons we should plan:

- Because _____ plans.
- Because we are _____ to plan.
Reference: **Luke 14:28** (see screen)
- Because planning is good _____.
Reference: **Ephesians 5:16** (see screen)

Things Nehemiah did as part of his planning:

ONE – Nehemiah _____ this situation through.
verse one (see screen)

Principle: successful people make _____ for think _____.

TWO – Nehemiah moved ahead in spite of his _____.
verses one through three (see screen)

THREE – Nehemiah established a _____.
verses four and five (see screen)

Each of us ought to have **SMART** goals:

S - _____
M - _____
A - _____
R - _____
T - _____

Nehemiah not only had an established and stated goal but we’re going to see throughout this book that Nehemiah had a sustained determination to meet that goal

One more example of a **SMART** goal and a determination to meet that goal was the mission God assigned his Son, Jesus, in sacrificing Himself on the cross.

There are four servant songs mentioned in the Old Testament book of **Isaiah**. The servant songs were messianic prophecies that predicted the Messiah (Jesus) would be a servant. Those four servant songs are found in:

- One... **Isaiah 42:1-9**
- Two... **Isaiah 49:1-13**
- Three... **Isaiah 50:4-11**
- Four... **Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

The messianic prophetic statement from the third servant song was _____ in:

Reference: **Isaiah 50: 6 and 7** (see screen)

The messianic prophetic statement from the third servant song was _____ in:

Reference: **Luke 9:51** (see screen)