

“Following a Visionary Leader”- Nehemiah 2:1-8, 11, 17-18



I. In order to understand what a visionary leader is, we must first define vision.

Ques: “In your own words, what is vision?”

Visionary root=**Vision**= to *see*

George Barna in *“The Power of Vision”* says,

“Vision for ministry is a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants and is based on an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances.”

1. A clear mental image.- Visionaries must be able to *see*.
2. imparted by God.- Nehemiah was a man of prayer. (Neh. 2:4)
3. of a “preferable future”- Jerusalem rebuilt.

II. Why is vision necessary?

Prov:29:18a- “Where there is no vision, the people perish...”

III. “Title or position does not automatically make one a leader. *Vision* imparts leadership. Therefore every leader, if he or she is to lead effectively, must have vision.

IV. Nehemiah’s relationship with God imparted to him godly wisdom. What good is the vision if the visionary gets his head chopped off? Nehemiah knew 2 things:

1. that he needed favor with the king as well as with others in authority in order to get the job done.
2. God was able to grant him the favor that he needed. *“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”*- Prov:21:1

V. In order for vision to be effective, it must be imparted (cast) to others: *Neh. 2:17-18*

3 Things that Nehemiah said that showed evidences of clear vision:

1. Nehemiah communicated clearly the purpose for the mission. He was passionate and clearly able to motivate others. *Vs.17*

Hab:2:2: And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Nehemiah’s Vision Statement:

“To rebuild the walls, the gates, and the city of Jerusalem itself, so that they may be restored to their former glory as the city of the true and living God.”

2. Nehemiah was able to show that his purpose was God-ordained. He had no personal agenda except to do the will of God. *Vs. 18*

3. Nehemiah had favor with those in authority- God opens doors when He imparts vision.

4. The people responded heartily to Nehemiah’s vision.

“...they strengthened their hands for this good work.” Vs. 18

“...the people had a mind to work...” Neh. 4:6