



Read: Nehemiah 1:1-3.

For nearly a century, the Jewish remnant had been back in their own land, and Nehemiah could have joined them; but he chose to remain in the palace. God put Nehemiah in Susa. When God wants to accomplish a work, He always prepares His workers and puts them in the right places at the right time. **God has a good work for you to do right now, right where you are!**

What do you do when you see something that bothers you deeply and you can't take it anymore? **Three phases** to begin your good work.

1. Sit Down and Cry (Nehemiah 1:4)

The first thing we see Nehemiah do is what you may end up doing at some point of your life. You sit down and let whatever it is, the injustice in the world actually break your own heart.

When Nehemiah heard the news he didn't do what's so often the easy thing to do – brush it off. Instead, he sat down, he broke down and he started to cry.

What breaks your heart? What is it that burdens you? What is it that creates a righteous anger? What is it that burdens your soul? Let it in. Let it wash over you. Let it move you.

I don't worry when every now and then something breaks my heart and moves me to the point of tears. Rather, I worry when it's been a long time since that has happened. I want my heart to be tender, to be broken by the things that break the heart of God.

2. Kneel Down to Pray (Nehemiah 1:4)

If it's big enough to cry about, it's big enough to pray about. If your heart is broken and deeply touched by a need, sit to cry and then kneel to pray. Nehemiah's prayer confesses his own sin, confesses the sins of his people and brings to remembrance God's promises and God's faithfulness in the past (See Nehemiah 1:5-11). We see Nehemiah praying several times throughout this book.

What you pray about reflects what you believe about God.

If our only prayers are bless this food and keep me safe and give me a good day, you really don't believe the real powerful God. But when you ask God to stretch you, to use you, when you pray for the impossible, you believe in the power and the glory of a good God.

Through prayer, the burden grows and the vision narrows. Real prayer keeps your heart and your head in balance so your burden doesn't make you impatient to run ahead of the Lord and ruin everything. As we pray, God tells us what to do, when to do it, and how to do it; and all are important to the accomplishing of the will of God

3. Stand Up and Act (Nehemiah 2:1-5)

If God places that burden on your heart, He is wanting you to do something about it! But who am I? I'm not...(fill-in-the-blank). **You don't have to be appointed by man if you are called by God.** You don't have to be chosen by people if God prompts your heart, stirs your spirit, gives you a burden. You just step into it. Trust him and watch him act. Feel the presence of God stirring you.