

THE MARKS OF A REAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

(Nehemiah 1:4-11)

4When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5Then I said:

“O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commands, 6let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. 7We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

8Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’

10“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:4-11 (NIV)

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to him.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV)

IF I WANT TO HELP REBUILD THE WALLS ...

I. I MUST FOCUS ON THE _____ OF GOD.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)

TRUTH: You can always tell how _____ people are about the reality of God by the _____ of their prayers.

“O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commands . . .” Nehemiah 1:5 (NIV)

Anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (MES)

Reality 1: God is a God of _____

. . . the great and awesome God . . .

Moses had seen the invisible God and wasn’t afraid . . . Hebrews 11:27 (CEV)

Reality 2: God is a God of _____

. . . who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commands . . .

II. I MUST UNDERSTAND THE _____ FOR THE MESS.

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. Nehemiah 1:6b-7 (NIV)

III. I MUST DISCOVER THE _____ FOR MY LIFE.

I was cupbearer to the king. Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV)