

Change in Lifestyle

I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

Nehemiah 2:5 (NASB)

Observation

Nehemiah was in a pretty good situation when this story began. He was the king's cupbearer, which was a pretty honorable profession. Nehemiah probably never experienced lack in the king's palace. It was probably one of the most comfortable situations he could have been in. The interesting thing is Nehemiah refused to live in comfort while others experienced hardship. He asked the king to leave his position to go to a rough place and work on a near impossible task. This is what sacrifice looks like.

As followers of Jesus, we have to be open to God calling us to change our lifestyles in order to serve him and his people. Nehemiah left his comfortable position to make a difference. During this Open: Next Chapter journey, God will call us to do the same - to make sacrifices in our lifestyle so we can be generous people with our prayers, sharing the Gospel, and finances. What would happen if you changed your lifestyle a little to free yourself up financially to make a difference? We believe that the church will

grow, and so will your faith in God. We never sacrifice anything without God moving in our lives. Nehemiah left the king to build a wall, Jesus left heaven to save us, and our response should be the same.

Application

Are you open to God asking you to change your lifestyle so that you can become more generous with your time, talents, and treasure? Write your feelings down. This can be a hard process, but it needs to be an honest one. Open up your heart to God and process sacrifice together. Use the Commitment Guide section to explore some ideas for how we can sacrifice in our financial commitment.