



Institute for National Transformation

Lecture 10

INT Projects:

Effective Packaging of Burdens as Vehicles for National Transformation



Definitions of Burden





Proper Channeling of Burden

Nehemiah 1:1,2

When Nehemiah heard these words:

- a) **He sat down** - the news had weight - load, a burden;
- b) **He wept** - the burden affected his emotions;
- c) **He mourned for many days**: created a sense of helplessness;
- d) **He fasted and prayed before the God** of heaven - resulted in effective prayer. Without a burden, prayer is hard.



Empathizing With the People

Nehemiah 1:5 -10

- Until we **sit where people sit**, **walk where they walk**; until **we get into their shoes**, we cannot be effective burden bearers.
- Nehemiah was **comfortable** and did not need to worry about Jerusalem
- Our Savior was **comfortable** in heaven and did not have to be bothered about us suffering here on earth



Taking Responsibility & Planning

Nehemiah 2

- Accepted responsibility to carry out his burden by going to Jerusalem- did not transfer it to a third party; **he left his comfort zone**
- He prayed that God will grant him favour with the King by touching his heart to:
 1. Approve Nehemiah's plan to go to Jerusalem;
 2. Give Nehemiah letters to governors for safe passage;
 3. Give letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, for timber to make beams **for the gates of the citadel which *pertains* to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that he will occupy;**



Understanding Burdens

1. Burdens are **God's invitation for partnership** in and a vehicle for Community Transformation;
2. Burdens should not be wasted but **should be properly channeled** towards achieving the intended objectives by the burden-giver: God. **People's lives depend on them;**
3. Burden **fulfillment plans** should be put in place and **carefully executed.**



Intimacy with the Problem

Nehemiah 2:14-16

14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass. 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.



Courage to Speak

Nehemiah 2:17,18

- Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.
- They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work

It is a collective responsibility



Nehemiah 2:18b

So **they** said, “Let us
rise up and build.”
Then **they set their**
hands to this good
work.



Summary of Nehemiah's Approach

Nehemiah 1 & 2

1. **Heard** about the problem
2. Developed a **burden**
3. **Separated to seek** divine solution
4. Took responsibility
5. Devised a **well thought-out plan of action**
6. Presented it to his master
7. Got approval
8. Departed to Jerusalem (**took the first step**)



Summary of Nehemiah's Experience

Nehemiah 1 & 2

9. Remained secluded (out of public eyes) to intimate himself with the scope of the problem - **got specific facts/data**
10. He **created a platform** on which he confronted & challenged the people that matter: Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and others
11. He **got a buy-in** from the people - 'So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work
12. He **revised his plan** and then **implemented it**



Discouragement

Nehemiah 4:10-12

- Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”
- ¹¹ Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”
- ¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”



Threat of attack

Nehemiah 4:13

Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.



Packaging Your Burdens for NT

Nehemiah Approach

1. Which of the problems you've **heard or seen** troubles you the most? Write it down
2. **Separate yourself to God** and obtain divine solution
3. **Take responsibility** to spearhead that change!
4. Devised a **well thought-out plan of action**
5. **Present your plan** to your divine connections/networks and **secure their blessings**



Summary of Nehemiah's Experience

Nehemiah 1 & 2

6. Go to your land/sphere prepare to deliver it
7. When you get there, stay low key for a season and intimate yourself with the scope and specifics of the problem- put faces to the issues and get facts/data
8. Create a platform (NGO, Business, Institutions, etc.) on which to confront/challenge people that matter- know the group to which you are called
9. Register the platform with Board (directors, advisors etc);
10. Get buy in from them until they said, "Let us rise up and build," and then set their hands to this good work



Nehemiah's Implementation Strategy

11. **Revise strategic plans to accommodate facts** on the ground before implementation.
12. Identify, train and hand over the micro-management of the repair of different “gates” to potential partners in the private and public sectors;
13. Have **clear cut job descriptions and work instructions and scope of responsibility** for each group on how to repair their “gate”;
14. Start with rebuilding physical walls first, **create infrastructure** then progress to emotional walls, then spiritual walls – people want to see.



Nehemiah's Implementation Strategy

15. **Maintain supervisory role** and **lead by integrity and by zeal**
16. **Devise means of monitoring** the outcomes of the building work, how is it progressing?
17. **Expect opposition** within the camp (false prophets) and outside the camp (Samballat & Tobiah) but refuse to be distracted.



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Thank You for Listening
God bless You!