



BRIDGES

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"The Wisdom of Waiting"

Have you ever found yourself in a season of waiting? Maybe you're waiting for clarity, healing, a relationship to be restored, or a door to open. Waiting can feel like the hardest assignment of all, especially when you're ready to move forward, but God says, *"Not yet."*

In this past Sunday's message, we looked at Nehemiah 2:1-8, where Nehemiah makes a bold and dangerous request of King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem and rebuild its broken-down walls. But what stood out most wasn't just what Nehemiah asked for, *but it was how he waited before asking.*

After hearing of the desolate condition of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1), Nehemiah prays and asks God for success *"today!"* But God's answer was *"Yes... but not today."* Nehemiah had to wait four months before the door opened for him to make a request. And in those four months, Nehemiah shows us not just the importance of waiting, but the wisdom of how to wait well. Here's what we learned:

The Six Principles of Waiting Well.

1. Stay Faithful in Your Current Season: Nehemiah continued serving the king faithfully for four months without complaint or checking out mentally. The text tells us, "I had not been sad in his presence"—he didn't manipulate the situation or let his future hopes affect his present duties.

2. Count the Cost Before You Commit: Nehemiah understood that asking the king to rebuild Jerusalem's walls was extremely dangerous. The king had already issued orders against this very thing 10 years earlier. Whether the king said yes or no, Nehemiah's life would be forever changed.

3. Clarify the Burden and Speak It Wisely: When the king asked what was wrong, Nehemiah didn't assign blame. He spoke from the heart, with honor and wisdom. He knew how to explain the burden behind his request.

4. Prepare Your Heart Through Prayer: When the king asked what Nehemiah wanted, he offered a silent prayer in the moment, because he had been praying for months. He was spiritually ready for what would come next.

5. Prepare Your Plans Through Research: When opportunity came, Nehemiah was incredibly prepared. He knew exactly how long the project would take, what resources he needed, which officials to contact, and even the name of the keeper of the king's forest!

6. Trust God's Hand, Not Your Own: Ultimately, Nehemiah rested in God's hands, trusting in His timing and work.



So, How Are You Waiting?

Waiting isn't just a passive pause—it's a spiritual discipline. It's a time when God aligns our hearts with His, sharpens our character, and prepares us for what's next. Nehemiah shows us how to wait wisely—with faithfulness, readiness, and trust. If you find yourself in a season of waiting right now, don't waste it. Be faithful where you are. Pray and prepare. Trust that God's timing is never late, and His hand is always good. May the Lord give you the wisdom to wait well.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Trent Eastman

"Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31