Soldiering: A Biblical Perspective
Lesson 3
Nehemiah's Godly Prayer, Delegation & Action

1. Situation. What did Nehemiah learn from Hanani concerning the condition of Jerusalem (Neh 1:3)?

2. Reaction. What did Nehemiah do when he heard this news (1:4-11)?

3. Nehemiah's Prayer. Examine Nehemiah's prayer in detail. What does this examination tell you about the elements of effective prayer?

4. The Staff Officer Response. What was Nehemiah's initial reaction when Artaxerxes began to question him (Neh 2:1-16)?

5. "Commo Check." What did Nehemiah do before responding to Artaxerxes' questions (2:4)?

6. Good Staff Work. What was Nehemiah's specific request of Artaxerxes? What was Nehemiah's demeanor before the king? What does this indicate about his effectiveness as a staff officer (2:5-8)?

7. Taking Charge. What were Nehemiah's initial actions upon arrival at Jerusalem? What was their significance (2:9-16)?

8. Call to Action. How did the people of Jerusalem respond to Nehemiah's call (2:17-19)?

9. Responding to Opposition. How did Nehemiah respond to the scorn directed against him (2:20)? *NOTE:* This is a key verse in the book of Nehemiah because it shows the essential relationship between God's faithfulness and man's duty.

10. How to Organize. Read Nehemiah 3:1-7 and scan the rest of the chapter. How were the people of Jerusalem organized for their work of rebuilding the wall? What principles of sound organization are evident here?

11. Opposition to God's Task.
        a. What were the Samarian and Ammonite initial reactions to the Jews' work on the walls (4:1-3)? What does this tell you about the use of ridicule as an arrow in Satan's quiver?
        b. How did Nehemiah respond to this (4:4-5)?
        c. How did the people respond (4:6)?
        d. What were the next Samarian and Ammonite actions against the building of the wall (4:7-8)?
        e. What effect did these actions have on the wall builders? What other factor influenced them (4:10-12)? What additional threat did the wall builders now face? What is the significance of the fact that the project was half finished at this point?

12. Leadership Challenge. What specific steps did Nehemiah take to deal with the outside threat and the low morale of his workers (4:13-23)? What principles of leadership and organization and what tactics are evident in Nehemiah's action? What were the results?

13. Faithfulness. How did Nehemiah's enemies attempt to defeat him when they saw that the wall was almost built? How did Nehemiah respond (6:1-10)?
   a. First attempt and response (6:1-4).
   b. Second attempt and response (6:5-9).
   c. Third attempt and response (6:10-14).
   d. What were the common elements in each attempt to influence Nehemiah? What were the common elements in each of Nehemiah's responses?

14. Results. What were the results of Nehemiah's faithfulness (6:15-16)? Who got the credit? What does that tell you about Nehemiah?

15. Relationships: Much of Nehemiah's success can be attributed to his ability to establish and maintain proper relations with others and to keep these relations in the proper balance with one another. Comment on the following:
   a. Nehemiah's relationship with the people of Jerusalem.
   b. Nehemiah's relationship with Artaxerxes.
   c. Nehemiah's relationship with the Lord.

16. Professional and Spiritual Growth. How would you evaluate Nehemiah's growth as a leader from when he learned of the condition of Jerusalem until he finished the work of rebuilding the wall? Comment on the challenges he faced in each of the following situations and the qualities were required to deal with them:
   a. Obtaining Artaxerxes' approval for the project.
   b. Encouraging the people of Jerusalem to commit themselves to the work.
   c. Dealing with the initial attacks of ridicule.
   d. Dealing with a serious external threat and internal discouragement.
   e. Dealing with deceit, slander and treachery.

17. Application. How would you sum up the reasons for Nehemiah's success? How could your answer to that question assist you in the accomplishment of a mission that God has for you?