

Heroes of the Faith

Nehemiah

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I. *Hero/Heroine: A person admired for their achievements and noble qualities, one that shows great courage*

II. The background of Nehemiah

A. The *timeline* Approx. 450 B.C.

B. He is an exiled *Israelite* living in Persia

C. He is a *Cup Bearer* to the King

1. A position of *trust*
2. A position of *influence* and *affluence*
3. A position that required *wisdom* and *discernment*

III. What makes someone Heroic?

A. A hero is moved by a holy *dissatisfaction* 1:4

1. A willingness to ask hard *questions* from a source of truth
2. A clear *identification* with God's people
3. A passionate *frustration* with the lack of God's will being done

B. A hero relies on the power of *prayer*

1. The four *C's* of Nehemiah's prayer
 - a. *Character*
 - b. *Confession*
 - c. *Confidence*
 - d. *Commitment*

C. A hero takes *action*

1. Motivated by a God sized *cause* he made God sized *requests* 2:1-7
2. Reality is defined through firsthand *experience* 2:11-16

D. A hero *persists* in the face of *oppostion*

1. External: ignore *distractions* and deal directly with *gossip*
2. Internal: address low *moral* face personal *fears* head on and deal with usury and *exploitation*

E. A hero stokes the *dream* of God in others 2:17-18, 5:12

1. Sharing God's heart for *people*

F. A hero celebrates with *joy* 8:10