

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 2 11-20



O be favourable and gracious to Zion; build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Psalm 51:19

Praising:

Commit your ways to God, your works into his hands, and rest on his unchanging word, who heaven and earth commands.

Reading:

Nehemiah 2:11-20
Nehemiah inspects the ruins at night

Nehemiah embarks on a covert site visit. His circuit of Jerusalem starts and finishes at the Valley Gate. The fact that he needs a donkey hints at the size of the city. The fact that the donkey cannot traverse the whole way round, says something about the general state of what Nehemiah finds. It is as if Nehemiah wants to apprise himself of the task at hand before finally deciding to take it on. Once he announces

his plans, Nehemiah is committed. The moment he shares the spiritual journey which has brought him to that point, and the fact that King Artaxerxes is behind him, the local officials are committed too. Nehemiah's enemies suspect the building of the wall is a prelude to some kind of rebellion. Nehemiah is adamant that their undertaking will flourish because God is with them.

Listening:

Praying:

Still us Lord, to reflect carefully on what you want us to do for you

- that we would let go and give ourselves to the silence of sitting in your presence
- that we would resist distractions and clear you a real space in our consciousness
- that we would allow your Spirit to stir up in us thoughts and words and pictures

Father: it is good to walk around my challenges and face my fears. But thank you that when I steel myself for the task and go for it, you send me support and prove you are with me. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 07 September 2016