Choosing To Answer The Call To Greatness (Part 3)  Nehemiah 2:17-20

Objective: This message sets the stage for a time of kingdom refocus necessary to advance the work of God in this generation. The call of greatness is a divine summons to get involved in a kingdom partnership and opportunity (often hazardous) that will advance His cause, bless others, glorify God and benefit self!

1. The Cause Of Greatness Is The Consciousness Of The Covenant Family  Is.6:8
   * Nehemiah serves as our overall example of kingdom cause, commitment and leadership!
2. The Cause Of Greatness Is A Calling To Give Self  Rom.10:9
3. The Cause Of Greatness Is A Calling To Give Service  Rom.12:1-2  Job 36:11
   * Systematically  * Spontaneously  * Strategically  * Sacrificially
5. The Call To Greatness Is A Call To Eliminate Fear’s Distraction  2Tim.1:7
6. The Call To Greatness Is A Call To Be Established In Faith Disciplines  Heb.11:1-2

Subtitle: How To Maximize Your Kingdom Opportunity

Introduction: The call to greatness is the positioning of God for increase. Most of the time it is accompanied by overcoming opposition … Often this opposition causes fear which must be processed and dealt with … The previously stated call to give because of a righteous cause … We have teaching points and preaching points in today’s message … Instruction and Inspiration!!!

Explanation and Exhortation! Experience in walking with Christ has taught me and substantiated by Scripture that the most anchoring element for a kingdom commitment is the fear of The Lord. The call to act and obey is equally anchored in overcoming the fear of lack at the present moment!

I. Operating In The Fear Of The Lord  Ps.111:10
   * The root cause for people obeying God consistently is the fear of The Lord factor. We must define and chase this term through Scripture to determine its profound affect on those who embrace it.

   A. Defining The Fear Of The Lord
      * Def. The Fear Of God is the established persuasion of the heart of the awesomeness of God, acknowledgement of His Lordship and consciousness of His Presence and Power which causes a sense of resolve, restraint, reverence, repentance and respect! God is not angry but will move to bring correction, chastisement and levy consequences for our disrespect and disobedience!
      1. Fear of God is often confused with a traumatic fear – Final Authority
      3. We are mandated by God to fear Him  Deut. 8:6  13:4 (Define The Fear God)
      4. We are to learn the Fear of God – Not Automatic  Deut.14:23, 17:19, 31:13  Ps.34:11

   B. Developing The Fear Of The Lord
      1. The Revelation Step - Prov.20:5  Understanding the truth
      2. The Saturation Step - Rom.10:17  Ps.1:1-3  Being consumed with truth
      3. The Consecration Step - Gal.5:16,25  Making a commitment to truth, to live it
      4. The Regimentation Step - Jos.1: 7 Enforced discipline through accountability
      5. The Celebration Step - John 4:23  Worship anchors a reverential respect  Prov.23:17

   C. Diminishing Of The Fear Of The Lord – The subtle disregard & disrespect  2Cor.2:11
      1. It is Diminished through independent thinking philosophy which credit self or others
      2. It is Diminished through doubting the existence of God or His right to exclusive rule
      3. It is Diminished through misrepresentation of Grace that minimized sin and holiness
      4. It is Diminished through thinking that God’s ways are too tedious (None Tithing)
      5. It is Diminished through familiarity with kingdom affairs where you become religious!
II. Overcoming The Fear Of Lack  1Kings 17:13-14  Mk.10:17-30
* In both cases obedience hinged on being able to overcome the fear attack that invaded their minds at the moment of a kingdom request. Thank God for ministry that causes me to trust God!

A. The Preaching Points For The Pattern
1. Identification... With the character because God is not a respecter of person
2. Edification ... It's a time for faith building through life experience observation
3. Magnification ...It's a time to isolate principles to aide my situation
4. Glorification ... The application bring victory and glorifies God

* The root cause behind most disobedience is the fear factor or better stated the fear, lack or insufficiency. We studied how the Widow of Zarephath overcame the fear of lack through the on time ministry of the Prophet that secured her through the famine.

1. The Inadequacies In The Situation
* The story opens with Jesus teaching in a place that is not adequate to support the crowd. He gives the disciples an assignment for which they have no adequate provisions. Life is filled with moments of inadequate demands. God takes moments of inadequacies to show His sufficiency.

2. The Inability Of The Servants
* We are brought face to face with a call to greatness (kingdom service) that the disciples feel they don't have the resources, readiness or resolve to manage. We must quickly learn as we journey in faith that God is looking for availability and not necessarily ability!

3. The Inappropriate Solution
* The disciples in question were about to do what most people do when they face a kingdom shortfall or demand for which they have no ability. They suggest that it's not their problem....let them go into the villages and buy themselves....send them away...we have done our part...not until Jesus has released you.... It is human tendency to abdicate than to embrace.

4. The Instructions Of The Savior
* In a moment of testing their faith Jesus begins to guide them to the answer which is a lesson we must all treasure that when facing the seemingly insurmountable we must not lean to our own understanding but acknowledge Him who knows all. He will direct our paths! The instruction...settles the heart....sends hope....surveys options... “I'm waiting to hear from God on my situation.”

5. The Investigation Of Supply
* Whereas the disciples had concluded there was insufficiency Jesus knew that sufficiency was available. This teaches us that before we declare what is impossible we should aggressively engage in possibility thinking. Go and see.... He would never give you an assignment He was not committed to provide. He already knew what was about to take place.... God already knows what He is going to do....Rest In It!  Excuses shut down creativity ... and blinds us to feasible options!

6. The Insufficiency Sarcasm
* When the disciples complete their investigation at the request of Jesus they discover a lad's lunch of two fish and five loaves of bread. It's his lunch...how did they talk this kid out of his lunch? They report to Jesus that in this massive multitude all they could find is this lad's lunch... Sarcastically they comment ...What is this among so many? They are about to learn that God does the incredible with little things.... A little cake...a little stone...a little... “Your Situation is too big for me but Not too Big for God!”  The commentary of the haters...pessimist...Mocked the 23

7. The Investment As A Seed ... “My Seed is about to bring God into my Situation!”
* It is obvious something special is about to happen as Jesus gives the joint instructions of give me what you have and set the people down so they can receive. He created an expectation of accomplishing the mission objective by using what He had. Jesus was about to use the lunch as a seed to trigger the supernatural surplus. Jesus knew the power of the principle of exchange.
Jesus who represents the kingdom teaches the disciples the seed faith giving principle. They needed an exceptional supply … they needed to sow an exceptional seed.

8. The Intentional Supplication
* At this point this shift into a spiritual focus as Jesus takes the fish and the loaves and prays over them thanking God that it’s enough. Intentionally speaking over the little bit to activate the creative power of thanksgiving. **Is. 57:19** It’s hard to be thankful over a little bit when you need so much more...thanksgiving invites increase... You can only do so through intentional effort. Can we pause now for a moment of thanksgiving

9. The Increase Of The Substance
* Contrary to what most would have liked to see happen, the increase did not take place all at once but was progressive. Like the healing of the lepers... as they went... That is the way it was with the Widow's meal and her oil... it was a daily increase... The miracle did not happen in Jesus' hands it happened in the disciple's hands...."**He Transforms Whatever Is Transferred !**"

*Increase is Prophetic. * Increase is Promise. * Increase is Principle. * Increase.

10. The Instruments Of The Supernatural
* What most people miss is the role the disciples played in answering this cause of feeding the multitude. We see moving from the place of lack to operating in the fear of the Lord. They experience the return on their seed sown ... I submit the miracle occurred at the distribution point... As they gave there was more to give from ... What a picture ... The anointing on our lives rises to the occasion causing me to meet the needs on hand. This is true to form that we are called to be instruments of His supernatural...God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things...

11. The Incredible Satisfaction
* What is amazing about this narrative is that the pendulum swings from not enough to more than enough. The scripture declares that the people received enough to more than satisfy their appetite. It speaks of what will happen when we allow God to minister to people through us. He always satisfies. The satisfaction is dynamic because included would be the 12 baskets for those who served... God is true to His word... He multiplies the seed sown....

12. The Inspiration Of The Scripture
* What is the Holy Spirit attempting to teach us through this mentoring time with Jesus and the disciples? He is showing us how to do much with nothing much and how to do a lot with a little. You must believe and you must overcome the fear with a deliberate act of faith... You will be amazed! Lesson of Power, Ability and Caring… He Can Overcome Any Situation …

**Conclusion:** The Fear of God to some is a small thing but it is the foundation to everything in the kingdom of God which eventually produces Courage, Conviction, Commitment and Consistency! The Holy Spirit majors on using small things, small steps to accomplish major things. When the Spirit of God wants to teach powerful messages about life He takes man to ant, the conies and the locust. When God wanted to get great victories He used small things … like a smooth stone to kill a giant, like a rod to open the Red Sea, like an ox goard in Shamgar’s hand and like a jawbone of an ass in Samson’s hand. When God wants to cause massive multiplication He ask for a small seed, like the lad’s lunch, like the widow’s cake, and like twelve men to win the world. Today He is not asking for much but that you take a small step of the Fear of God (definition) you will never be the same. One day I took what look like a small step, but look at what the Lord has done! It’s no secret what God can do.....