

## Connecting Through the Faces of Justice II

“Weeping face”

*KJV Nehemiah 1:1-4* The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, <sup>2</sup> That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; **and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.** <sup>3</sup> And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. <sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that **I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven**

Nehemiah wept over the condition of his city.

*When was the last time you wept over what was happening in Columbus, Ohio?*

A weeping face turned into a face of intercession and prayer.

Nehemiah's prayer led him to action.

□ Nothing happens **without** direct action.

*“We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive”. Dr Martin Luther King.*

I

*KJV Nehemiah 1:5-11* prayer

Nehemiah took **intercessory** responsibility for the condition he found himself in, his people, and the condition of his city.

Nothing happens until God's people take responsibility for what's happening in their city.

*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter” Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## II

Prayer intercession ***produced*** a strategy to confront a public official.

*KJV Nehemiah 2:2-4* Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, <sup>3</sup> And said unto the king, Let the king live forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? Then the king said unto me, **For what dost thou make request? <sup>5</sup>Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.**

*“You can pray until you faint, but if you don’t get up and do something, God’s not gonna put it in your lap.”* Fannie Lou Hamer, **Fannie Lou Hamer** Townsend (October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977) was an American [voting](#) and [women's rights](#) activist, [community organizer](#), and a leader in the [civil rights movement](#).

Always look for action outside of your prayer time.

Praying and waiting before the Lord has its merits.

Throughout the corpus scripture, action always followed prayers that were earnest, honest, and fervent.

*KJV Exodus 3:9-10* Now therefore, behold, the **cry** of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also **seen** the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

The cry of the people came up before God, and He inquired about and saw the oppression of the people.

□God's solution was to send Moses to solve the problem.

□God is always looking for someone to stand in the gap and make up the hedge.  
**Ezekiel 22:30.**

### III

The result of the confrontation was that resources were released to fix the city's problem.

*<sup>KJV</sup> Nehemiah 2:5-8* And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. <sup>6</sup> And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. <sup>7</sup>

**Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king,** let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; <sup>8</sup> And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. **And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.**

Nehemiah spent four months in prayer, researching strategy, and talking to the right person with the authority to be the solution.

- Nehemiah asked for a big solution to a big problem.

The public official asked how long this will take.

Nehemiah set a reasonable time for this solution to happen.

“Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored.” *Martin Luther King Jr., [Letter from the Birmingham Jail](#)*

- Be the solution!
- Help us build the power of organized people!

Let's take nonviolent, direct action!

- Let's solve community problems in Columbus, Ohio!

The Nehemiah Action, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, The Ohio State Fairgrounds  
The Celeste Center, 6:40 pm pre-meeting  
7:00 pm We Begin!

Tickets are *available today from Rhema Christian Center Justice Ministry network members!*

*Rhema Christian Center  
Bishop La Fayette Scales  
Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28, 2024  
9:30 a.m.*