



Part 3: Passion That Can Be Explained

May 21, 2023

Big Question: Can you explain your passion?

Text: Nehemiah 2:1-10

Four Part Series

1. Passion That Can Be Seen and Felt
2. Passion of a Mother
3. Passion That Can Be Explained
4. Passion That Is Acted Upon

Statement:

Nehemiah was not just passionate but was able to explain his passion.

Nehemiah is Asked to Explain his sadness

2 In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, 2 so the king asked me, **"Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."**

I was very much afraid, 3 but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

Nehemiah is Asked to Offer a Plan (What do you want?)

4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" **Then I prayed to the God of heaven,** 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

1. Nehemiah explained the time he needed (v6)
2. Nehemiah explained the authority he would need (v7)
3. Nehemiah explained the financial plan he developed (v8-9)
4. Nehemiah explained how he built a vision beyond his enemies (v10)

- 6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.



- 7 I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me **safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?**”
- 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. 9 So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.
- 10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

Next Time: Passion That is Acted Upon