



# LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

**M**any parts of this make-believe story found their way into several modern movies: A man opens a newspaper and discovers it is dated six months in advance of the time he lives. Reading through the newspaper, he discovers stories about events that have not yet taken place. Turning to the sports page, he sees scores of games not yet played. Even the financial page tells of the rise or fall of many stocks and bonds.

He realizes this information can make him a wealthy man. A few large bets on an underdog team can make him wealthy. Investments in stocks that are now low but will go high can fatten his portfolio. He is delighted with his newfound fortune!

He turns the page, comes to the obituary column, and sees his picture and story—everything changes. The knowledge of his death changes his view about his wealth.

In Luke 12, Jesus tells a story where the main character says, “I’ve got plenty of grain laid up for many years. I will take life easy; eat, drink and be merry!” Then God responds, “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

Remember: Time flies, even when we aren’t having fun. Psalm 90:12 says, “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” And verse 2 gives power and eternity to God. Set your eyes on Him as we strive to live each day for His glory and purpose.

# SERMON NOTES

**Let Us**

January 16



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JAN. 23, 2022

NEH. 2:19

**Next Week:**

**MOCKING BIRDS**  
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## PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

### **Mo** Nehemiah 1:3-4

The time to lead is when there is a time to serve. Nehemiah's heart breaks at the destruction. What breaks your heart? What has caused you to act in the past?

### **Tu** Nehemiah 1:4-5

If our time is going to be a gift to God, we must start with God. Reflect on biblical characters who see great trouble and go straight to God for guidance and approval.

### **We** Nehemiah 2:1-5 & Ephesians 2:10

God has declared he has prepared works for us in advance. These works of faith are crucial and sizable tasks. We might need others to buy in and assist. Who has God placed in your life who might help?

### **Th** Nehemiah 2:11-16 & Ephesians 2:10

If God has prepared works in advance for us to do, and they are sizeable tasks, what prep work do we need to do now to be effective and efficient in accomplishing what He had prepared for us?

### **Fr** Nehemiah 2:17

Pointing out the negative can be destructive and demoralizing if it leaves people feeling isolated and alone. Nehemiah says, "Let us," to show he is there to help with them. What can you say, "Let us" to?

### **Sa** Nehemiah 2:18 & Proverbs 16:9

Some will buy into a project if they believe the leadership is qualified. Nehemiah recognizes God's lead. If God is at work in your life, how can you speak about what He is doing? How can that encourage others?

## STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Nehemiah 2:1-18.
  - Nehemiah had never been to Jerusalem before, yet the thought of the destroyed wall broke his heart. What does this say about Nehemiah?
  - Some argue a cupbearer was a lowly position. What do you think, did Nehemiah have a high or low position?
  - Notice Nehemiah's connection with the king; First, King Artaxerxes had never seen this level of sadness in his cupbearer. Second, the king supports Nehemiah's plan. What type of character would Nehemiah need to demonstrate to build such trust and reputation?
  - Nehemiah was afraid to tell the king about his plan. Was his apprehension a good thing or a bad thing? Was Nehemiah's fear a sign of his lack of faith? Why?
- For more than 100 years, the walls around Jerusalem lay in ruin. God's timing and approval of Nehemiah's dream are seen in:
  1. The king's favorable support (time, letters, and funding).
  2. The buy-in of key local leaders and priests.
  3. The mocking and ridiculing—opposition.
  4. The unity that comes from completing God's task.
  - Have you ever experienced any of these and known you were doing right?
  - Nehemiah's rebuilt wall started with a dream to fix a big problem. What is a big problem we see in our world today?