

Introduction: God is searching...

“And I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land that I might not destroy it . . .”

Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV)

... for just one man or woman to “step out” and make a difference!

The Question:

Review - What does it take to make a difference for God? What kind of person?

1. The 1st prerequisite to Holy Ambition is a _____ **heart.**

➤ Do you care?

2. The 2nd prerequisite to Holy Ambition is a _____ **spirit.**

➤ Are you dependent?

Prerequisite #3:

3. A _____ .

➤ Will you step out?

Our Model = Nehemiah

¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

¹In 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; ²so 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, ³but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." ⁶Then 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.

Nehemiah 1:11-2:6 (NIV)

Definition:

A radical faith is choosing to "step out" to fulfill God's clearly defined will at great personal risk and sacrifice.

How do we develop a radical faith?

1. By remembering what faith is and is not.

Hebrews 11:1

2. By remembering how deeply God values our faith.

Hebrews 11:6

3. By remembering what Jesus taught His followers about a radical faith.

- Jesus _____ them to a radical faith. Luke 9:23-27
- Jesus _____ the object of their faith. Luke 9:28-45
- Jesus _____ of the dangers of having a radical faith. Luke 9:46-56
- Jesus _____ the cost of having a radical faith. Luke 9:57-62

4. By remembering you can't "walk on water if you don't get out of the boat."

Luke 10:1-27

Summary:

³⁰"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. ³¹So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NIV)

Application/Discussion Questions:

1. What would "stepping out" in faith look like in your personal arena and network of influence? (Family? Work? Finances? Time? Evangelism?)
2. What might a radical faith look like for you in your present and future ministry?
3. What barriers or fears make stepping out in radical faith difficult for you right now? Are you "hanging onto" anything that keeps you from following Christ? Is it stuff? People? The past?
4. What specific step will you take to begin strengthening your faith? Who would help you follow through on this commitment?