

## **A Sudden Prayer**

Nehemiah 2:4

### **DISCUSSION: A sudden prayer...**

#### **I. Was suddenly required.**

- A. "Point blank," a question on which hung the success or failure of a long-prayed-for object was asked by the king.
- B. It was a great benefit to seek immediately the aid of the Omnipotent.
- C. There are many occasions on which the servant of God needs assistance from God.

#### **II. Was silently offered.**

- A. There was no opportunity for an audible, vocal prayer.
- B. Good for any time, but not feasible here.
- C. A sudden and secret desire darted to heaven.
- D. Hannah was not heard, yet she prayed (1 Sam. 1:12, 13).

#### **III. Was suitably addressed.**

- A. "I prayed to the God of heaven."
- B. It recognized the supremacy of God and His power over human hearts and events.

#### **IV. Was shortly uttered.**

- A. A question had been asked, and an answer was required.
- B. Yet, between question and answer, there was time to send a prayer to heaven.
- C. Not enough time for a long prayer
- D. Length is no virtue (cf. Matt. 6:7, 8).

#### **V. Was successfully answered.**

- A. "And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me" (2:8).
- B. After a sudden prayer, briefly offered, Nehemiah's requests were granted.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Nehemiah's petition was marked by...
  - a. Humility: "If it pleases the king..." (2:5)
  - b. Tact: "...to the city of my fathers' graves..." (2:5)
  - c. Forethought: "...let letters be given me..." (2:7)
2. May our lives be so filled with God that we may suddenly, silently, suitably, shortly, and successfully pray.