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Making Appeals How to Approach Authorities

Daniel 1; Nehemiah 1

Intro: When we are feeling overwhelmed while under any authority in our life, we have the opportunity to make humble appeals to our authority, just like Daniel and Nehemiah did.

When Daniel made his appeal...

1. **He Humbly Sought Permission (Dan. 1:8)**
 [] No grand-standing or demands
2. **He Asked to Be Tested (1:12)**
 [] No presumption; Let's do and review
3. **He Fairly Offered Limits (1:12)**
 [] 10 Days; Short time; Judge results

When Nehemiah made his appeal...

1. **He was Afraid, but Honest (Neh. 1:3)**
 [] No silence in self-pity; He was real.
2. **He Prayed, then Asked (1:3)**
 [] No self-reliance or manipulation
3. **He Offered Times and Plans (1:6-7)**
 [] No generic vision or demands
4. **He Felt God's Touch and Favor (1:7)**
 [] A keen sense of walking IN the Lord

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

When Daniel made his appeal...

1. **He Humbly Sought Permission (Dan. 1:8)**
 No grand-standing or demands here. Playing hard – ball, issuing threats, or casting blame is not the object here. Humbly working within the given parameters and offering humble alternatives is.
2. **He Asked to Be Tested (1:12)**
 No presumptions in expecting special treatment just because you ask for it can be spotted here. Instead, they were willing to have their alternatives tested to prove themselves.
3. **He Fairly Offered Limits (1:12)**
 They also included a short term test and the fair option of letting the authority judge the results.

When Nehemiah made his appeal...

1. **He was Afraid, but Honest (Neh. 1:3)**
 No silence in fear, or wallowing in self-pity here. Nehemiah felt very much afraid, but had the courage to humbly make his appeal to the king.
2. **He Prayed, then Asked (1:3)**
 No self-reliance or manipulation here either. He was a man of prayer first, getting his cues from above, and THEN asking permission of the king.
3. **He Offered Times and Plans (1:6-7)**
 No generic vision or demands were brought to the king. Nehemiah clearly prayed and thought through a time table and specifics plans to offer.
4. **He Felt God's Touch and Favor (1:7)**
 A keen sense of walking IN the Lord is the great fruit of making appeals, even if they are initially turned down, and even if they are denied altogether. You can still here God say: "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Then, He may have you stay to demonstrate how to walk in grace and offer grace in a very difficult scenario, or He may release you to find a new place of service and ministry if that is an option for you. We trust God in all things!

DANIEL 1:8-14

But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so **he sought permission** from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. ⁹ Now God granted Daniel **favor** and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials, ¹⁰ and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king." ¹¹ But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² **"Please test your servants for ten days**, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

NEHEMIAH 1:2-8

² So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." **Then I was very much afraid.** ³ **I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?"** ⁴ Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" **So I prayed to the God of heaven.** ⁵ **I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."** ⁶ Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, **and I gave him a definite time.** ⁷ **And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah,** ⁸ and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the  temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go." **And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.**