

Beltway Park

Building a Life that Matters Risky Faith Beltway Park June 27, 2010

Text: Nehemiah 2:1-10 (p.472)

Faith is not always _____.

Nehemiah 2:1 tells us that Nehemiah had never been _____ in the presence of Artaxerxes. His job as cupbearer was to keep the king both safe from poisoning and happy in demeanor.

As soon as Artaxerxes noticed his demeanor, Nehemiah was at _____ _____. The safest thing for Nehemiah to do at that point was to apologetically grovel and slap a smile on his face.

Nehemiah had been praying for favor with Artaxerxes. It seemed God was answering his prayer, but he had to step out and act in this thing called _____.

_____ **and** _____ **often go together.**

Faith means we are _____ enough about God's heart and character that we will risk following Him even when we do not know what the immediate outcome will be. (*Heb. 11:1-2*)

We are so convinced that we are _____ in Him forever that we act upon His word and leadings even when we do not know how things are going to turn out in a specific situation.

We are a world in love with _____. Why would anyone dare to live a life of faith when it can be so risky? (*Heb. 11:6*)

God-led risk leads to the greatest _____.

Most of us have heard a modern day proverb that has some great truth in it. _____. There is a lesser-known proverb that is equally true. _____.

If we do not believe God rewards those who seek after Him, we will never take the risks of faith. We are designed by _____ to take the greatest risks where we think we will get the greatest reward.

The message of God in the Bible from the beginning to the end is that the greatest reward and greatest pleasure we can ever find will be found in _____ and knowing His ways. *(Ps. 16:11)*

_____ enables us to see and experience the reality of who God is, and knowing more and more the reality of God and joining with Him in eternal matters is the greatest of joys.

Every act of obedience has a level of risk that requires _____ to say yes.

To become a Christian, I have to _____ to my sinfulness before a holy God. I have to confess that as I am God can have nothing to do with me, and I can do nothing to fix myself.

I have to give my life to Him, trusting that loving Him and radically following Him will give me _____ than what I could get on my own, both in this life and the life to come. *(Mk. 10:29-30; Jn. 10:10)*

It takes courage to confess that I am a sinner but Jesus' work on the cross is enough to utterly change me. It takes courage to say yes to be a _____ and not just somebody who says they believe.

I'm not promoting recklessness and lack of _____. I am not saying just do unsafe things and call it God.

There will be things God calls us to do that are awkward – uncomfortable – stretching – seemingly _____.

If we want to have the life God has promised, a life that _____, it requires faith. Inherent to faith is risk. No risk, no reward.
