

They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire." When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned." We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. "Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'You are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to Me and keep My

NO GATE

Come Let Us Rebuild.

Nehemiah: A Discerning Leader

Neh 6:1-9

Nehemiah

Discernment \di-'sərn-mənt

The quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure ...

a power to see what is not evident to the average mind...

stresses accuracy as in reading character or motives...

Merriam Webster

Nehemiah

Responding with discernment:

- 1. Identifying the enemy*
- 2. Saying no to “apparent” good ideas*
- 3. Dealing with slander and lies*

Nehemiah

Identifying the Enemy

- I have an enemy
- I need weapons

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, [4] for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. [5] We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the
midst of wolves; so be shrewd as
serpents and innocent as doves.
Matthew 10:16

Shrewd: “*practically wise, sensible*”

Nehemiah

Saying “No”

“A servant of God [*a parent, manager, business owner, ministry leader*] is never required to be a puppet of man. In other words, a commitment to ministry does not automatically imply an obligation to please people. A wise, discerning leader must be strong enough to say no to some, perhaps most requests for his or her time and attention... even without an explanation. “

“For most over-achievers or people pleasers saying no once is hard enough, but to follow Nehemiah’s example and say it four times can be excruciating. Whenever possible, leaders should establish a policy of taking time to weigh decisions before saying yes.”

Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.

1 Kings 4:29-30

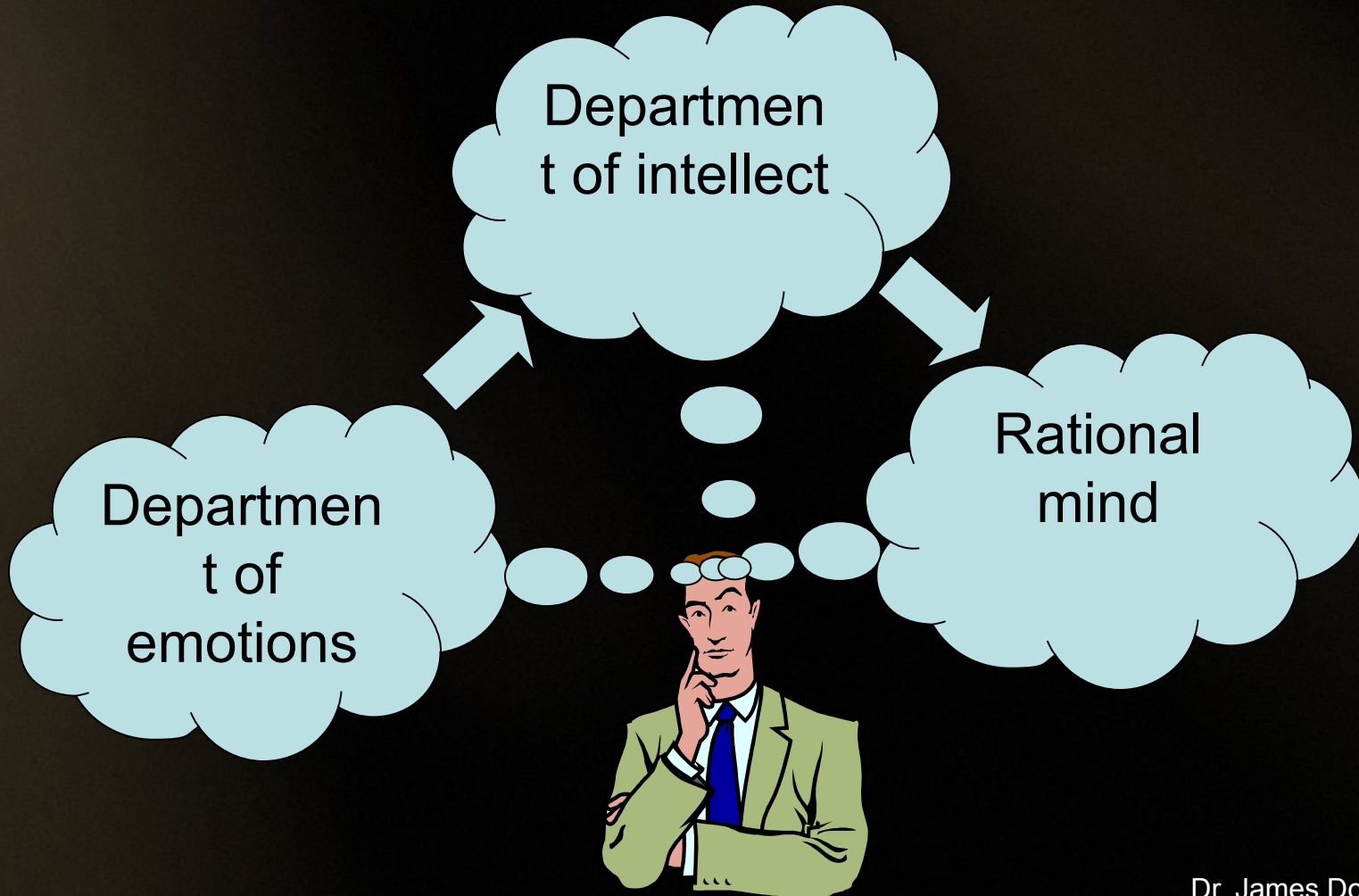
Nehemiah

The Departments of the Mind



Dr. James Dobson
Emotions, can you trust them?

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