Title: Midnight Ride  
Text: Nehemiah 2  
Target: Gain a roadmap on how to navigate a good-cause versus a God-calling.

I. When to Stand Up: (Vs. 1-8)

A. See the Opportunity: “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick?” (Vs. 2)

B. Seize the Opportunity: “What are you requesting?” (Vs. 4)

1. Permission from the King: “if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.” (Vs. 5)

2. Protection from the King: “let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,” (Vs. 7)

3. Provision from the King: “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 of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house I shall occupy.” (Vs.8a)

4. Pleasure from the King: “And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.” (Vs. 8b)

II. What to Take Up: (Vs. 9-15)

A. Clarify the Calling: “Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem.” (Vs. 12)

B. Consider the Condition: “I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.” (Vs. 13)

C. Count the Cost: “Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.” (Vs. 15)

III. Who to Wake Up: (Vs. 16-18)

A. Is it Conceivable?: “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned.” (Vs. 17)

B. Is it Believable?: “Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision.” (17b)

C. Is it Obtainable?: “I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words of the king who had spoken to me.” (Vs. 18)

IV. How to Rise Up: (Vs. 19-20)
A. **Expect Adversity:** “they jeered at us and despised us” (Vs. 19)
B. **Engage in Necessity:** “Then I replied to them…” (Vs. 20)
C. **Exalt the Priority:** “The God of heaven will make us prosper” (Vs. 20)
D. **Establish Unity:** “and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.” (Vs. 20)

**Take Away:** Father, give wisdom to know what to do, courage to act despite, and grace to trust God for the outcome!