

NEHEMIAH- A Study in Leadership

Today more than ever, the Church needs Men who will seek after God's face Who have an ear for the Spirit of the Lord, who are willing to submit and who are prepared to make tough unpopular decisions then God will use that man.

Nehemiah was such a man.

The period is around 445BC.and it is interesting to note that God has already placed his man in a position of favour so that God's plan could come to pass. When you look in scripture, you see god does this often i.e. Esther. Daniel is some examples.

Nehemiah was the Kings Cupbearer – This was a position that had Honour and it was a sought after Position .A cupbearer was the Kings taster. He would taste the Kings food and wine before the King would eat it .The person who was selected for the task by the king had the total trust of the King the Kings life depended upon him. Poison was the chief weapon used for assassination and so it was important to have that trust. The Cupbearer had the Kings ear .He had influenced.

Nehemiah means Whom Yahweh comforts.

It is believed that Nehemiah was either very young when he was taken into captivity or he was born in Babylon, either way he had a great love for the city of his God.

Nehemiah is a study in Leadership. He is an example of how a man of God should lead his people.

There are Five (5) Points that I would like to highlight about leadership which I feel is important as we as a church need to Know.

Firstly (1) a leader must have a **SERVANTS** Heart.

Jesus came as the suffering servant

A servant must serve God first and foremost

He must minister unto God. We are Priests offering up spiritual sacrifices

We must serve with a servants Heart with humility.

Nehemiah Learned servant hood as the king's cupbearer.

Neh 2v10 He came to seek the welfare for the children of Israel

. Point TWO (2)

When you are a leader, you can expect Opposition
Nehemiah certainly had opposition from the outside as well within
Sanballat and Tobiah

Sanballat- Babylonian name means, "SIN" The moon God. Allah Islam He
was a Samaritan He was a pagan; Samaritan religion was a mixture of
Paganism and Judaism --- REF the Woman at the well in John 4

Tobiah was an Amorite he was a pagan
Gesham was a pagan
Nehemiah was hemmed in on all sides by opposition

Chapter 2v9 2v19

Notice in verse 19 you have Scorn laughter and they were despised

Chapter 4v7 Conspiracy to fight against the Jews

As a leader you can expect that Satan will oppose the work God has given
you it may start firstly by mockery and taunts scorn. This may come from
the inside and from the outside.

What was Nehemiah's response He let God handle the situation
Chapter 4 v 15

The enemy will use False Prophets

Neh 6v10 and verse 14

today the enemy still uses false prophets i.e. Rick Joyner Benny Hinn
Copeland and Co.

Satan will also use opposition from within – The fifth Columnists

Neh 13v4 and 7.

Satan will also use opposition through Compromise.

Chapter 6 v2- murder Plot Ch 6 v10 Neh would have defiled himself.

Finally, Satan uses slander to bring division and I need not say too much
about that.

Point 3

Keep a positive attitude. Neh 2v12

Nehemiah had a Vision and purpose-what God wanted

Today I read Vision ,Vision get a Vision. It all comes from the failure of Toronto and Experiential Theology. Therefore, they seek after Vision .
REF New Apostolic Reformation,

These visions are run along worldly business principles. Church Growth through church transfer. Cater for what the people want NOT what They Actually NEED

All Visions must be Christ Centered and he is alone our focus.

The Men who speak of vision are carnal and worldly. They say that all visions have to be measurable but if you read scripture you will see that Christ alone is immeasurable.” For with God nothing is impossible’
Our vision and eyes must be on Jesus and him alone.

He went and surveyed the wall .He had a God ordained Vision and God Delivered. can you imagine the “Visionist” today all the Goal setting. It may work in Business but not in the Things of the Lord. These men pervert the Gospel by bringing the World into the Church.

In the words of David, “ I always saw the Lord before Me”

David inquired shall we go up against them?

He seeked God.

The task was at Hand the city lay in total destruction

2 Chron 36v 15-20but when you are Given a God ordained Vision it cannot fail. The walls were rebuilt in 52 days and the enemy knew that God had a hand in it.

As a Leader, you fight your Battles in Prayer.

Nehemiah was in constant prayer.

He interceded on behalf of the children of Israel.

He waited upon the Lord and waited for the Lord to open the doors,

We too sometimes jump the Gun with God.

Neh 1v4 Neh 2v2.

With Prayer, he fasted. Key ingredient
Esther Fasted for three days
Daniel frequently fasted
Jesus Fasted, We too should fast.

EPH 6 tells us to put on the Armour. This Armour is for protection but our offensive weapons are prayer and fasting!!!!.

All of the Great men of God Fasted and prayed.

Point 5

As a **Leader Nehemiah set an example to others.**

he encouraged them

Neh 4 v 6 they had a purpose of one mind to work

He rallied the people and they rebuilt the wall

He set protection for the people

He supplied food from his table Governor was allotted a certain amount of food, He did not use the privileges that were his.

Neh 5v 14-19

Self-sacrifice is necessary for Moral leadership.

He stopped oppression of the people by the rulers who were exploiting them

Neh 5v1-13

He championed the cause of the poor and Needy

The NT shows this cardinal rule.

In concluding saints the lessons that we have learnt from Nehemiah we can readily apply to our own lives. You may not be in leadership but you can still apply the principles to your own lives.

Let us Pray.