

Nehemiah: Integrity in Leadership

Chapters 1 -6

Chapter 1

Nehemiah believed in watching and working. He also believed in working and praying. Watch and pray, or work and pray, are the words that characterized this man. As we study this book there will be many principles that we will learn, but there is one in particular I can't let you miss. Nehemiah prayed before he planned, and the only thing he claimed or asked for was what God had already promised.

1. The condition of Jerusalem (1:1 – 4)

a. *The report from Jerusalem (1 – 3)*

b. *The response of Nehemiah (4)*

2. The petition of Nehemiah (1:5 – 11)

a. *Acknowledgement of God's greatness (5)*

b. *Confession of sins (6 – 7)*

c. *Request for God's help (8 – 11)*

Chapter 2

Nehemiah displays four prerequisites for every godly leader. He (1) realized his limitations—only God can change a person's heart; (2) he turned to God—praying and waiting; (3) he organized a feasible plan of action (while waiting on the Lord to answer); and (4) he pressed on, despite vocal opposition, to execute the plan—once God opened the way.

3. Nehemiah's Prayer Answered (2:1 – 8)

a. His Opportunity and Response (1 – 4a)

b. His Request of the King, and Tribute to God (4b – 8)

4. Nehemiah's Preparation and Arrival (2:9 – 20)

a. His Arrival (9 - 12)

b. His Inspection (13 – 16)

c. His Challenge, and His Critics (17 – 20)

Chapter 4 (Nehemiah's Reaction to **Outside Opposition)**

For every leader opposition is inevitable. True leadership exacts a heavy toll on the whole person—and the more effective the leadership, the higher the price! The leader must soon face the fact that he/she will be the target of critical darts. Unpleasant as it may sound, you haven't really led until you become familiar with the stinging barbs of critics.

1. **Nehemiah's Critics (4:1 – 3)** * *Critics run with critics...They never stop to think that they may be criticizing one of God's projects.*

2. **Nehemiah's Spiritual Response (4:4 – 6)** * *He ignored the sarcasm of the enemy, prayed to God, and continued to build.*

3. **Nehemiah's Enemies Conspiracy (4:7 – 12)** * *One of Satan's greatest weapons against God's people is discouragement.*

4. **Nehemiah's Strategy -which included common sense (4:13 – 23)** * *Prayer is not all that is necessary if opposition grows. Intensified opposition against the will of God calls for an intensified response.*

Chapter 5 - “NEHEMIAH” – (Nehemiah's Reaction to **inside Opposition)**

Since the book of Nehemiah illustrates nearly every major principle of leadership, we shouldn't be surprised to find Nehemiah facing the money issue. God's instructions (which they willfully disobeyed) would have protected and preserved the Jews of Nehemiah's day during this period of stress. But because they chose their own problem—solving method, they sunk into the quicksand of increasing compromise.

1. **How Nehemiah handled problems (5:1 – 13)**
 - a. Nehemiah listens at their gripes and complaints, [the famine, too many taxes, high and inappropriate interest rates (vv. 1 – 5)]

 - b. Nehemiah became angry [righteous indignation] (v.6).

 - c. Nehemiah's problem-solving solutions (vv. 7 – 13).
 - i. Determine to stop it.

ii. Make specific plans to correct the situation as quickly as possible.

iii. Declare your plans for correction in a promise before God.

iv. Realize the serious nature of your vow to God.

2. **How Nehemiah handled a promotion (5:14 – 19)**

a. Promotions bring privileges (v. 14).

b. Promotions threaten policies (v. 15).

c. Promotions involve projects (v. 16).

d. Promotions affect people (vv. 17 – 19).

Chapter 6 - (Nehemiah's Reaction to "Crafty" Opposition) outside/inside...

What I've discovered is as a leader of God's people often when we (*the leader and God's people*) are about to approach a tremendous mountaintop experience with God, I (*as the leader*) often experience an increased personal attack from my enemies to deter me from the work of God.

The Completion of the Walls (*An Assignment of God's*) Isn't it interesting that when one approach to stop the work didn't work, different approaches were used. Enemies **of God's work** can be relentless.

1. **Enemies will try to stop the project by a personal request (6:1 – 4).**

2. **Enemies will use the rumor mill (6:5 – 9).**

a. One of the major characteristics of **a rumor is** that the source is seldom known.

b. A **rumor** is noted for its exaggeration and inaccuracies.

c. **Rumors are designed to hurt**, they led to personal hurt and misunderstandings.

d. **Rumor-spreaders** lose sight of the fact that there must be a proper setting (*time and place*) for sharing information. And they are people who give unverified information to people who are critical and negative, knowing that they can't do anything about the situation anyway.

3. **Enemies will try and frighten the leader through intimidation (6:10 – 14).**
4. **The Wall is Completed (6:15 – 19).**
 - a. Godly leaders don't give in.

