

Scripture: Deut. 5:1-21 & Nehemiah 1 - 2:11

Psalters: 161:1, 5, 6 – 438:3 – 385:1-3 – 359:1-2 – 393:1, 3 – 368:1, 4, 5

Intro: *Are you tempted to skip 1 Chronicles 1-9 in your Bible reading?*

- A. Scripture records inspiring examples of great leaders for a purpose
- B. Nehemiah stands out and yet his example tends to cause some discomfort
 - 1. His leadership bears as a convicting Christian witness
 - 2. His leadership shows *pro-active* thinking
 - a. he understood the world is *never neutral*
 - b. he understood the need for *clear boundaries*
 - c. he understood that serving God is more than *a worship service*

NEHEMIAH'S INSPIRING EXAMPLE FOR OFFICE-BEARERS
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I. His Personal Grief II. His Personal Action

I. Nehemiah was a man of personal integrity and fear of God

- A. His personal prosperity did not dim his spiritual focus (1:1-4)
 - 1. He had a brilliant, exciting though spiritually charged position at the court
 - 2. What was the anchor that kept him steadfast?
 - a. He was a man of the *Book* (vs. 7-10)
 - b. He was a man *whose desire as to fear the LORD* (vs. 11; Prov. 13:13)
 - c. He was a man of *personal prayer & fasting* (vs. 4)
- B. His reaction to bad & disturbing tidings about Jerusalem is telling!
 - 1. He became exercised spiritually (vs. 4; compare 1:1 and 2:1)
 - 2. He became part of the sin (vs. 6-7)
 - 3. He did not lose his faith in God's promises (vs. 8-11)
- C. Wanted: *many more Nehemiah-type Christians!*

II. Nehemiah's Personal Action

A. He was not content to be *mourner* but desired to be a leader (1 Tim. 3:1)

1. Are we praying like Nehemiah: *Lord, use me!*?
2. Are you prepared for God's answer for may mean huge sacrifices?

B. As God provided opportunity to do something, he acted decisively (2:1-4)

1. Yet take note *how* he acted (vs. 4b)
 - a. the only safe way to walk with *wait upon God as you walk*
2. God answered the fervent wrestling of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:9-13:31)

FOUR CONCLUDING TAKE-AWAYS ...

A. Nehemiah led by example and involvement

B. Nehemiah could not do the work *by himself*

1. for the King and His Kingdom: *none of His servants can stand idle*
 - a. consider leaders *as* the trellis on which the vine grows
 - b. the real fruit does not grow out of a trellis but out of the *vine*

C. Nehemiah used his influence to equip others (Eph. 4:12; Titus 1:5-9)

1. Foremost remains to *take heed to yourselves (first)* (Acts 20:28)
 - a. as leaders aim to be as the sons of Issachar: 1 Chron. 13:32
2. Secondly, we are to *give heed to all the flock*
 - a. not limited to *watching over them*
 - b. also means *growing them*

D. Being a 'fruitful member' is to *live the life of the Kingdom*

MATTERS TO CONSIDER AND PRAY ABOUT

1. Read through Nehemiah and note in what ways he was opposed though he did a good work. Reflect on your own reaction to spiritual leadership at home, church, school or civil settings, and if needed, seek God's forgiveness. Consider Romans 13:1-7; Titus 2:9-10.
2. In the Kingdom of God all saints share the task for the Kingdom life. What is your particular calling within the Kingdom life?
3. Paul often referred to himself as the 'servant of Jesus.' How alive is this 'new identity' in you?