

Scripture: Nehemiah 1-2

Singing: 370:1-2 – 291: 3, 4, 6, 7 – 291: 9, 11, 12 – 121:1, 3, 4 – 223

The example of Nehemiah's leadership is too neglected!

- A. For his leadership makes many Christians uncomfortable

- B. For his approach is too radical for many though thoroughly Biblical

- C. For his wall-building & gate-securing leadership is a convicting witness

- D. For his leadership reveals proactive thinking

- E. For his examples show his vision

Conclusion: Nehemiah understood the *power of personal and congregation obedience to the laws of God* as both a **defense** and a **witness**

<p style="text-align: center;">Nehemiah's Inspiring Leadership</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">I. His Personal Grief II. His Personal Action</p>
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I. His Personal Grief

- A. His prosperity and earthly success didn't dim his spiritual focus (1:1-4)
 - 1. He was exposed to tremendous carnal temptations

 - 2. His life of personal prayer was the anchor of his spiritual strength
 - a. he stayed in touch with the Divine while busy with the earthly

- B. His spiritual reaction to bad tidings about Jerusalem are touching (1:4-11)
 - 1. What did he not do – do with the unhappy report?
 - a. compare 1:1 with 2:1

 - b. consider 1:6-7

 - 2. Yet unhappy tidings didn't douse faith in God's promises (1:8-11)

- C. Application: *Are we leaders like Nehemiah in 'private?'*

II. His Personal Action

- A. He wasn't content to be a *spectator* but desired to be a *builder - restorer!*
1. He realized God *works through means* (Is. 6:8)
 - a. What is our response when we see God's kingdom falter?

 - b. Are you prepared for God's answer to be *used by Him?*
 2. No sacrifice was too great for him
- B. As God provides opportunity to do something, he acts (2:1-4)
1. Yet not without *prayer* (vs. 4)
 - a. God's best laborers are those who labor on their knees

 - b. The best laborers *follow* God instead of *walk ahead* of Him
 2. God answered his fervent prayer beyond expectation (2:8)
- C. Application: *God's Kingdom needs Nehemiah like leaders and laborers!*
1. Building and Guarding God's Kingdom is *combined task under leadership of Jesus Christ*
 2. The congregation is like a *trellis with the growing vine*
 - a. the trellis: *the leadership of consistency – parents at home/school*
 - need to train – grow – stay in good shape: *exercise thyself unto godliness!*

 - b. the vine: *the members at home – at work – in community*
 - need to be trained – equipped – directed – used
- communion of saints is sharing Spirit's gifts!

A Christian is the workmanship of Jesus Christ,
called both to holiness and service.

You can't be reconciled to God
without being recruited in His kingdom work.

Whom God calls in grace He employs for the Kingdom.

What were candles made for but to burn? (M. Henry)

God has no sons or daughters that are not servants.