

NEHEMIAH, A SERVANT OF GOD AND A LEADER FOR GOD

I. A LEADER KNOWS THE PROBLEM - Nehemiah 1:1-3

Nehemiah hears about the problem, and is heartbroken. He cares about God's purposes being fulfilled, and he cares about the people in Jerusalem. Psalm 122

II. A LEADER PRAYS, AND BELIEVES GOD WILL GIVE SUCCESS – Nehemiah 1:4-11

A. Nehemiah is desperate in prayer, is weeping, mourning and fasting.

B. Nehemiah prays in faith, for He knows God's character (Psalm 9:10).
Nehemiah prays in faith for He knows God's covenant promises, for God said He would restore and bless His people. Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 30:1-3

C. Nehemiah didn't just want to be a cupbearer to the king, he wanted to do the will of God, the will of the King.

III. A LEADER PLANS, GETS PERMISSION, AND PRAISES GOD – Nehemiah 2:1-8

A. Nehemiah gets permission from the king to go back to Jerusalem.

B. Nehemiah had prayed about the plan, and thought through the plan, and communicated some of this to the king, who is favorable to his plan. Proverbs 21:1

C. Nehemiah gives glory to God - "*The good hand of my God was on me.*"

IV. A LEADER KNOWS THERE WILL BE OPPOSITION - Nehemiah 2:9-10

When you want to carry out God's will, there are usually obstacles in the way.

V. A LEADER KNOWS WHAT HE NEEDS TO DO - Nehemiah 2:11-16

A leader has figured out exactly what he needs to do to get the job done.

VI. A LEADER SHARES HIS VISION WITH THE PEOPLE – Nehemiah 2:17-20

Nehemiah tells the people the problem, the plan, that God is leading, and testifies as to how God has already been working. The people say, "*Let us arise and build.*"

VII. A LEADER HAS HIS WORKERS WORKING IN THE RIGHT PLACE – Nehemiah 3

The people are doing the work, doing their part, following the lead of Nehemiah, and are repairing and restoring the entire wall and all the gates. It took skill and work.

VIII. A LEADER MOTIVATES HIS PEOPLE TO WORK AND TO FIGHT,
TO BUILD AND TO DEFEND – Nehemiah 4:1-12

- A. The enemy challenges the work of God, the work of Nehemiah. Verses 1-3
- B. Nehemiah prays for help against the enemy. Verses 4-5
- C. The workers are working hard, making progress, and get halfway done. Verse 6
- D. The enemy conspires to fight against the workers. Verses 7-8
- E. The people pray to God for help, and set up a guard. Verse 9
- F. False rumors are going out, the enemies are still scheming, and fellow Jews are discouraging the workers. Verses 10-12

IX. A LEADER MAKES ADJUSTMENTS, AND INSPIRES THE WORKERS –
“REMEMBER THE LORD” – Nehemiah 4:13-15

X. A LEADER IS SMART AND STRATEGIC – Nehemiah 4:16-21

- A. Some of the workers became fighters, and were a full time defense force. Other workers worked, but were also ready to fight.
- B. Nehemiah had a communication plan in place – the sounding of the trumpets.
- C. The workers knew that God would help them work, and would defend them.
“Our God will fight for us.”

XI. A LEADER SACRIFICES, AND IS WILLING TO SUFFER – Nehemiah 4:22-23

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT,
I HAVE FINISHED THE COURSE,
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH
2 Timothy 4:7

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Do you see yourself as a worker for the Lord? What are you doing for Him?
3. Do you see yourself as a fighter for the Lord? How are you fighting for Him?
4. What motivates you to serve the Lord, to work and fight for Him, and to not give up?
5. Specifically, who are you working with, who are your co-workers, your fellow soldiers?