

Recurring issue in the book of Nehemiah is lists: 5x Nehemiah has made a list. Leadership involves lists.

I. KNOWING YOUR PEOPLE

A. The book of Nehemiah is full of lists of names: *Chapters 3/7/10/11/12*

1. Names are important!

a. *Proverbs 27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;*

1. Names take work – sometimes our brains don’t naturally retain them

a. *Adam Porter: Who is that girl? She’s someone’s daughter!*

2. Names are important to people

a. People respond to those who care enough to remember their name

1. They associate concern with knowing who they are: *Nehemiah lists them by name*

3. Names are important to us:

a. De-personalizing someone makes it easier to diminish them: *For example - racism*

1. People slip through the cracks when we don’t keep track

a. Simple test of leadership: *Who is missing?*

b. This is important in taking personal responsibility for our people in prayer

1. John 17: Jesus praying for His men – wanting to preserve them

a. *I have numbers of prayer lists – so I make sure I pray for people*

B. The lists in Nehemiah are lists of function

1. Not merely who is present: Knowing who is doing what

a. *Nehemiah 12:8 The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and also Mattaniah, who, together with his associates, was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.*

2. You have to be thinking in terms of need – and who is meeting that need?

II. DELEGATION

A. Our scrip contains lists of leaders – different men doing different tasks

1. Wise leadership knows you shouldn’t try to do everything yourself

a. *Exodus 18:17-18 Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.*

1. You waste time on small details

2. You fail to do what is important

3. You get worn out

4. You fail to develop people/disciples/leaders

B. Wise leadership involves delegation: a. *To entrust to another* b. *To appoint as one's representative*

1. Nehemiah left other men in charge

a. *Nehemiah 12:8 The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and also Mattaniah, who, together with his associates, was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.*

1. Either someone else does a task 2. Or they oversee others who are doing the task

III. GRATITUDE

A. The lists in Nehemiah were acknowledging the contribution people were making

1. Nehemiah wrote their names down because he was grateful for their contribution

2. Written down because gratitude must be expressed

a. *1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,*

b. *Romans 16:1-6 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, ² that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. ³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵ Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. ⁶ Greet Mary, who labored much for us.*

1. Say it personally 2. Say it publicly 3. Write it down