

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH #22: "Separation"

Neh 13:1-3

Pioneer Pastor: Man stood up and started introducing himself publicly/grabbed the microphone and started speaking. Pastor said "Don't ever come back!" Was that OK? Absolutely! Our scrip: Leadership involves separating some people from the church.

I. RECOGNITIONS OF SEPARATION

A. The assembly must be based on God's word

1. The word of God is a measuring stick – we measure ourselves and measure our churches

a. Nehemiah 13:1 On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God,

1. They recognized they were not lining up with God's word – so they had to change!

B. Quality counts!

1. The point is that who you have be a part of the church is important

a. The power of influence: Spiritually b. The power of exampleship: Other people model off of

1. Crazy people 2. Religious people 3. Sinful people: (not new converts starting to change)

a. Identifying with your church b. Changing your church c. Resisting change

C. Some people shouldn't be here

1. Not everyone should be in ministry

2. Not everyone should be in your church

a. Nehemiah 13:1 On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God,

1. Protecting other people 2. Protecting your purpose in God

II. THE HARD CALLS OF SEPARATION

A. Sometimes there must be separation

1. *Nehemiah 13:3 So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.*

a. Separation of people from the religious

1. Acts 19:9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

b. Separation of people who won't do right: Mixed multitude were the constant source of sin

B. This is difficult sometimes

1. Emotional: I don't think any of the mixed multitude said "why, thank you for pointing this out..."

a. They will fight with you/mad-dog you

1. If you have to have everyone like you – you will struggle to lead

2. You have to be able to explain – and resist pressure from those who want you to change your beliefs

III. BALANCE IN SEPARATION

A. This cannot be your entire focus/your full-time job

1. Some take pride in the fact "they're true Fellowship" "radical disciples" – and run everyone off!

a. 14 chapters in Nehemiah – covering years: Only a few instances of removing people

B. Wisdom in separation

1. **This is a timing issue:** Nehemiah didn't show up day 1 and start throwing people out!

a. Special grace when first starting b. Where the church is at, etc.

2. **This is a wisdom issue:**

a. Wisdom comes from God: All through the book – Nehemiah is praying!

1. This needs to be your constant prayer to God

b. Wisdom involves headship: VI they read from the book of the law...the priests!

1. It is not for disciples to be jamming people/straightening them out/running people off!

2. You need wise advice: Your pastor will help you get perspective on who/why/when/how to deal with

3. **This is a heart issue:** Can't allow this aspect of leadership to cause you to have no love for people

a. You have to pray for God to protect your heart while doing right