

Intro: Interesting that in Nehemiah (and Ezra) money is mentioned multiple times as a leadership dimension.

I. MONEY AND BATTLE

A. Money is a battleground

1. The enemy seeks access to the money – so he can rule
 - a. *V4-5 Tobiah takes up residence in the treasury!*
2. The issue is dominion: The right to rule
 - a. If the enemy rules in money – he will rule in other areas; You will not have dominion over him!
 1. Eliashib: The God of conversion...conversions are affected!
 - b. *Achan disobeys in \$ - the congregation loses in battle*
 - c. *Malachi 3 - the devourer eats up your efforts*
 1. Your prayers/labors are affected:

B. Why would Tobiah have dominion in money?

1. **Those who don't understand money:** How it works/why it's important
2. **Carnal sympathies:** Tobiah allied...our hearts will make alliances with money! *I need/I want/I deserve...*
3. **The blindness of good decisions:** They were doing good things in other areas – the \$ is not a big deal
4. **Recurring attacks:** Eliashib had been defeated – but he is back again
 - a. Our convictions will be tested repeatedly: *Time/success/needs...we must defeat again*

C. Money is a leadership dimension

1. You cannot lead if you don't have dominion in money
2. The Pastor determines what happens in the congregation
 - a. Mistake: The people/economy is why we have no \$...NO! A man of God determines what happens

II. MONEY AND WISDOM

A. You must take practical steps to defeat Tobiah

1. You go to war against Tobiah: *V8-9 I threw his stuff out/cleansed the room/brought the offerings*
 - a. *Prayer*
 - b. *Refusing a spirit*
 - c. *Giving: Offerings*
 - d. *Challenging people: V11 I contended with the rulers*

B. You must be wise in who handles money *V4 Eliashib the priest allowed Tobiah access to the treasury!*

1. The people that handle money affect the money!
 - a. *Those who don't tithe*
 - b. *Those who are not liberal*
 - c. *Those who are rebellious*
 - d. *Those with no personal dominion*
2. Take action: Either don't allow from the beginning – or deal with those who my hurt you

C. You must ensure money is used wisely

1. Wise use of money is as important as giving money! Stewardship – managing the resources of another
 - a. *Nehemiah 13:12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.*
2. Knowing what is needed/getting the money where it should go
 - a. *Needs are met*
 - b. *You have credibility*
 - c. *God is pleased*

III. MONEY AND BLESSING

A. Nehemiah understood that God's blessing is connected to financial decisions

1. Nehemiah 13:14¹⁴ Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its services!

- a. If I have done right – I know God will be pleased; I will have favor

1. Philippians 4:18 I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.

2. There must be a dimension of faith in finances

- a. I believe God is able
- b. I believe God wants to help me/help us!