

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH #25 “Staying On Track”

Nehemiah 13:23-31

Nehemiah came originally to Jerusalem only temporarily: The King wanted him to get back to his job. Some years passed before he was able to return. He becomes aware that they have gotten off track – take actions to get back on track/stay on track. Important part of leadership has to do with the ability to stay on track.

I. AWARENESS

A. A simple part of leadership is awareness

1. Aware of what is going on with those you are called to lead

a. V7 I learned about the evil... V10 I discovered the tithes not given... V15 he saw Sabbath violations... V23 I saw marriages to foreign women...

2. This involves a recognition that people we know and love can do wrong/get off track

a. If you have the blindness of so-called ‘love’ – it won’t enter your head that they could do wrong

1. Everyone else sees/knows... My child/our people – NEVER!

a. Jeremiah 14:10 Thus says the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander...

3. Real truth is many people don’t want to know painful truths: Lousy leadership

B. How do we develop that awareness?

1. Prayer 2. Observation: Keeping your eyes/ears open 3. A track record of right preaching/actions

a. This will cause things to come to the surface

II. UNDERSTANDING

A. Understanding of the past

1. We have to recognize damage that has happened in the past

a. Biblically: 1 Cor 10:11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us...

1. Nehemiah 13:26 Foreign women made King Solomon of Israel sin. There was never a king like him in any of the nations. God loved Solomon and made him king over all Israel, but foreign women made him sin.

a. We’re not different/better: Are we like that? Are we doing that? Could that happen to us?

b. Personally: We may have a personal testimony in our own lives/own church of how this has played out

1. I’ve seen this before/We’ve experienced this before...

B. Understanding of the future

1. Key questions: *Where is this taking us? Where will this wind up?*

a. Nehemiah 13:24 Half their children were speaking the language of Ashdod or some other place, and they couldn’t speak the language of Judah.

1. If they have lost touch with our language – they will lose touch with our God!

b. Nehemiah 13:28-29 Joiada was the son of Eliashib the high priest. One of Joiada’s sons married a daughter of Sanballat the Horonite, so I sent him away from me. ²⁹ Remember them, my God, because they made the priesthood unclean and the agreement of the priests and Levites unclean.

1. The blessing will be missing/people will despise the priesthood

III. ACTION

A. It’s not enough to know there are problems

1. Action must be taken to correct – actions must be taken to protect

a. Nehemiah 13:25 I argued with those people, put curses on them, hit some of them, and pulled out their hair. I forced them to make a promise to God, saying, “Do not let your daughters marry the sons of foreigners, and do not take the daughters of foreigners as wives for your sons or yourselves.

1. Passionate about the issues! Boldly declaring the truth. Calling people to do right

b. Nehemiah 13:28 Joiada was the son of Eliashib the high priest. One of Joiada’s sons married a daughter of Sanballat the Horonite, so I sent him away from me.

1. Correction: You cannot be allowed to continue...

c. Nehemiah 13:30 So I purified them of everything that was foreign. I appointed duties for the priests and Levites, giving each man his own job.

1. Clear boundaries 2. Clear instructions

2. The Book ends with his prayer of remembrance

a. Nehemiah 13:31 I also made provision for contributions of wood at designated times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me with favor, O my God.

1. God’s blessing on our leadership is dependent on our attitudes/actions

a. Remember for good/with favor...God will get involved in practical/spiritual blessings