

## 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.<sup>29</sup> 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*