

Leadership according to Nehemiah (part 1)

Loyalty and Commitment: Traits that will help you take action

Introduction

In around 445 B.C. a Jew and current cupbearer to the king of Persia (Artaxerxes) is about to make a request that could cost him his very life!! Nehemiah, which means the Lord comforts, is that man and in his book (Nehemiah) we will see, what I believe, is a blueprint of what true leadership is... So sit back relax and listen to the sounds of: Leadership according to Nehemiah!!

WHAT

Turn with me now to Nehemiah 1... What is the need of his family, Hanani his brother reports? *The temple has been rebuilt but the city and its walls are still destroyed!!* This is bad; not only because it makes the country look poor and hopeless it also leaves its residents vulnerable to raids and thief...

2-Minute Drill: Abraham the father of the Jews is promised more descendants than sand on the beach, Moses a descendant of Abraham and prophet is promised the land that flows with milk and honey, Joshua conquers the city by walking around it 7 times and blowing some horns, Saul becomes king of all the land and passes it on to David, whom passes it on to Solomon who builds the temple of all temples and now its all destroyed!! What happened?

They turn from God... Scriptures say *"they did evil in the eyes of the Lord"* and with that, Assyria takes over the Northern region of the Holy Land, know as Israel... Later the Southern region (Judah) *"they did evil in the eyes of the Lord"* and where defeated by the Babylonians and dragged away enslaved... The king of the Babylonians King Nebuchadnezzar dies and Cyrus king of Persia takes advantage of this time and goes to war with them... So after 70 years of being exiled some of the Jews are aloud to return to the Promised Land and rebuild their temple!! But now Artaxerxes is ruling and nothing has been done for the city only the temple...

SO WHAT

Leadership according to Nehemiah: Read with me...

SEE the need around you (Nehemiah 1:3)

What do you think the biggest need is in America today?

Be **CONCERNED** about others (Nehemiah 1:4)

Have you ever been physically sick because of your concern for someone else?

Seek **DIRECTION** from God first (Nehemiah 1:5-11)

What is the longest you have ever prayed about something diligently?

Begin **DEVELOPING** a plan (Nehemiah 2:5-8)

What's your number one goal for 2006?

Don't forget the step before this one... *"If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans"*

It's not about you... *There are two reasons we are here on Earth: To Know Him!! To Make Him Known!!*

I believe, God is a fan of goals but that doesn't mean you write them... it means you both write them!!

RELY on God as you respond (Nehemiah 2:9-11)

Have you ever truly relied on God to get you through the day?

NOW WHAT

Because of his commitment and loyalty to his family, Nehemiah stops at nothing to do what he can to begin to fulfill the need and solve the problem of his people!!

Though your family may not have as obvious needs as Jerusalem does in Nehemiah's case...

Can you see a need right now that your family (GCC Bartlesville) has? You could be the answer...

One last thought:

"A ship in the harbor is always safe. but that's not what ships were built for"