

## THE INNER WORLD OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS

*Nehemiah 2:1-8*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** Perhaps some of you think, “I’m not a leader, so this isn’t for me. But in this current chaotic world we’re in, we’re all leaders. We can’t afford to go with the flow; we can’t afford to be passive. In this series, I’m asking all of us to press into spiritual leadership within this current cultural reality. This morning we look at the internal world of spiritual leaders. When you look at a leader, you generally look at the external picture that he or she presents to the world. You typically see confidence, courage, and a willingness to take risks. If that leader is successful, you often see them enjoying the fruit of that success. But most people never peer into the inner world of the leader. What are their fears? What are their hopes and dreams? What things drive them to take risks? In this passage, Nehemiah gives us a gift. He allows us to peer into the internal world of a gifted and accomplished spiritual leader. Even better, he allows us to peer into that world in the early phase of his spiritual leadership. This morning we look at four marks of the internal world of a spiritual leader.

**1. Accepting emotion**

*Nehemiah 2:1-2*

**2. Skillful communication**

*Nehemiah 2:3-8a*

**3. God's sovereignty**  
*Nehemiah 2:8b; Daniel 9:24-27*

**4. God's glory**  
*Nehemiah 2:8c*

**5. Idea**

**6. Takeaways**