

THE LONELINESS OF LEADERSHIP

Nehemiah 6:1-19

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: Leaders are typically surrounded by people, and this is a good thing. People look to the leader for guidance and direction. This is true if you're a leader in your family or among friends...a leader in your company or your broader community...or if you're a leader within your church. Being surrounded by people could seem like a great opportunity; leaders have the potential for transformative influence. However, inevitably the people you lead will have different opinions about your leadership, and they're probably not afraid to voice them. They may suggest personal agendas they need for you to meet. They may have pressing problems they want you to solve. And sometimes the agendas of *some people* conflict with the agendas of *others*. And now you, the leader, are being pressed on all sides. This is when leadership becomes lonely. You're at the tip of the spear. You're being observed, categorized, and potentially criticized. How does a leader handle the loneliness of leadership especially in high pressure times. This morning we want to see how Nehemiah handled it, and we'll also take a brief look at how Jesus handled it.

1. **Things that increase loneliness**

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2. **Idea** – How godly leaders confront the inevitable loneliness of leadership.

3. Takeaways