

Nehemiah: God's Leader, God's Vision, and God's Work

What do you and I know about Nehemiah? We know his father's name and his vocation. Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king. He served as a trusted advisor and tasted the king's food and drink. If Nehemiah became sick or died, the king didn't eat or drink. Nehemiah was a businessman whom God called to serve in a specific way. God uses people from different walks and vocations. Nehemiah is an excellent model of godly, visionary leadership. What is leadership? As J. Oswald Sanders said, "Leadership is influence." How do leaders, and this includes you and me, influence people? Our lifestyles influence people. The way we live is either a bridge or barrier to people. Our commitment to prayer influences people. God moves when His people pray. The Lord's vision influences people. A vision for ministry is God's revelation (Pr. 29:18). God reveals, and we respond.

Five qualities of effective, quality leaders:

- Leaders _____
- Leaders _____
- Leaders _____
- Leaders _____
- Leaders _____

I. Leaders need to _____ the pace of life and ministry.

Nehemiah 1:4 – *As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

1. Draw near to _____
2. Focus on God's _____
3. Clean out the _____
4. Remember God's _____

II. The _____ of God's vision often takes time.

Nehemiah 2:2-6 – *And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.*

1. _____
2. _____

- 3. _____
- 4. _____

III. God’s work attracts various forms of _____.

Nehemiah 4:1-3 – *Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!*

- 1. _____ Opposition
- 2. _____ Opposition
- 3. _____ Opposition

IV. God’s people need to get _____ with Him.

Nehemiah 9:1-3 – *Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God.*

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

V. Servant leaders address _____ God’s way

Nehemiah 13:6-7 – *While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.*

- 1. Spiritual _____
- 2. Financial _____
- 3. Inconsistent _____
- 4. Unhealthy _____

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What do you and I know about Nehemiah? We know his father's name and his vocation. Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king. He served as a trusted advisor and tasted the king's food and drink. If Nehemiah became sick or died, the king didn't eat or drink. Nehemiah was a businessman whom God called to serve in a specific way. God uses people from different walks and vocations. Nehemiah is an excellent model of godly, visionary leadership. What is leadership? As J. Oswald Sanders said, "Leadership is influence." How do leaders, and this includes you and me, influence people? Our lifestyles influence people. The way we live is either a bridge or barrier to people. Our commitment to prayer influences people. God moves when His people pray. The Lord's vision influences people. A vision for ministry is God's revelation (Pr. 29:18). God reveals, and we respond.

Five qualities of effective, quality leaders:

- Leaders **Ask Questions**
- Leaders **Face Reality**
- Leaders **Seek God**
- Leaders **Surrender All**
- Leaders **Get Involved**

I. Leaders need to **slow down** the pace of life and ministry.

Nehemiah 1:4 – *As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

1. Draw near to **God**
2. Focus on God's **greatness**
3. Clean out the **closet**
4. Remember God's **promises**

II. The **revelation** of God's vision often takes time.

Nehemiah 2:2-6 – *And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.*

1. **Brokenness**
2. **Openness**

3. **Boldness**
4. **Toughness**

III. God's work attracts various forms of **opposition**.

Nehemiah 4:1-3 – *Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"*

1. **Expect** Opposition
2. **Understand** Opposition
3. **Confront** Opposition

IV. God's people need to get **honest** with Him.

Nehemiah 9:1-3 – *Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God.*

1. **Worship**
2. **Remember**
3. **Surrender**

V. Servant leaders address **problems** God's way

Nehemiah 13:6-7 – *While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.*

1. Spiritual **Compromise**
2. Financial **Selfishness**
3. Inconsistent **Living**
4. Unhealthy **Relationships**