

ExtraORDINARY #10 – Nehemiah

Sermon by Todd Lester

November 13, 2016

Proverbs 28:2 When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability.

BIBLICAL LAWS OF LEADERSHIP

1. NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL SOMEONE PROVIDES _____ FOR IT
Judges 21:25

2. LEADERSHIP IS _____
1 Timothy 4:12

3. THE TEST OF LEADERSHIP IS “_____?”
John 10:27, 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

4. THE FOUNDATION OF LEADERSHIP IS _____ NOT _____
Hebrews 13:7-8

Godly leadership involves:

1. a _____ worth _____
2. a _____ worth _____
3. a _____ worth _____

5. LEADERSHIP CAN BE _____
Mark 3:14

6. THE MOMENT YOU STOP _____, YOU STOP _____
Ecclesiastes 10:10

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE NEHEMIAH AS A LEADER?

Nehemiah 1:1-4, 11

1. Nehemiah was _____ to the needs around him
Nehemiah 1:4

2. Nehemiah was _____
Luke 16:10-13

3. Nehemiah was _____

Great Bosses and Teachers

It's always a good idea to acknowledge those bosses and teachers we've known who had exceptional qualities. Recognizing great bosses and teachers helps us respect those people in roles of authority. In addition, when we have the opportunity to influence others as leaders we can strive for similar qualities.

Take turns sharing your answers to the following questions:

1. Who was the best boss or teacher you ever had? Why was this person so special?
2. What do you find most admirable about your current (or most recent) boss or one of your current (or most recent) teachers? Tell a story that illustrates this trait.
3. Which of the following characteristics are most important to you regarding your idea of a great boss or teacher? (Feel free to share characteristics not on this list.)

<input type="checkbox"/> encouraging	<input type="checkbox"/> knowledgeable	<input type="checkbox"/> friendly
<input type="checkbox"/> easy going	<input type="checkbox"/> disciplined	<input type="checkbox"/> clear
<input type="checkbox"/> trusting	<input type="checkbox"/> inspirational	<input type="checkbox"/> sincere
<input type="checkbox"/> polite	<input type="checkbox"/> respectful	<input type="checkbox"/> fair
<input type="checkbox"/> good reputation	<input type="checkbox"/> understanding	<input type="checkbox"/> appreciative
<input type="checkbox"/> focused	<input type="checkbox"/> interesting	<input type="checkbox"/> funny
<input type="checkbox"/> interested	<input type="checkbox"/> available	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
4. If you are, or ever become, someone's boss or teacher, what strengths can you bring to the position?

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BIBLICAL LAWS OF LEADERSHIP

1. NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL SOMEONE PROVIDES LEADERSHIP FOR IT

Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

2. LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

3. THE TEST OF LEADERSHIP IS "IS ANYBODY FOLLOWING?"

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

4. THE FOUNDATION OF LEADERSHIP IS CHARACTER NOT CHARISMA

Hebrews 13:7-8 Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

Godly leadership involves:

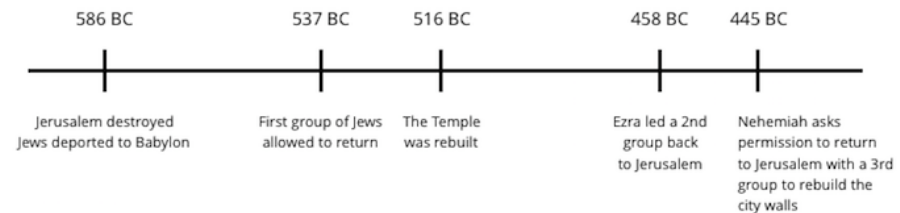
1. a message worth remembering
2. a lifestyle worth considering
3. a faith worth imitating

5. LEADERSHIP CAN BE LEARNED

Mark 3:14 Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach.

6. THE MOMENT YOU STOP LEARNING, YOU STOP LEADING

Ecclesiastes 10:10 Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.



Nehemiah 1:1-4 In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:11 In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE NEHEMIAH AS A LEADER?

Nehemiah 1:4 When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

1. Nehemiah was sensitive to the needs around him
2. Nehemiah was dependable

Luke 16:10-13 If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

3. Nehemiah was available

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Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Great Bosses and Teachers' activity is meant to get group members thinking about leaders they have experienced in their lives. Give time for participants to read and answer the questions, then take time to share responses.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Read and discuss [Proverbs 28:2](#). Todd said that we've never needed stability more in society than now. Do you think people have always said this?

Todd pointed out that there seems to be a leadership crisis right now. Would you agree? Where do you see it? He mentioned leadership in families, churches, and businesses – where else is there a need for good leadership? (eg. teams, schools,...)

BIBLLICAL LAWS OF LEADERSHIP

1. NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL SOMEONE PROVIDES LEADERSHIP FOR IT

Focuses on [Judges 21:25](#)

Todd said that most problems can be traced back to a lack of leadership. Can you think of a problem that illustrates this?

(eg. harnessing the power of Niagara Falls, slavery of Israel in Egypt)

Recall a time and situation when you needed to show leadership.

2. LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

Focuses on [1 Timothy 4:12](#)

Todd said that you can be a leader at any age. Who are some young leaders you have known or seen? (in own life or wider world)

Todd pointed out that everyone is a leader in the sense that they have influence. In what ways have you tried to be a positive influence? (think about spheres of influence – family, church, work, school)

3. THE TEST OF LEADERSHIP IS "IS ANYBODY FOLLOWING?"

Focuses on [John 10:27](#), [1 Corinthians 11:1](#) (NIV)

Todd asserted that Jesus is the greatest leader ever because even 2000 years after his coming He has over 2 billion followers. Would you agree? Does anyone else come close (Mohammad?)?

Think of a situation where you had to use power instead of influence to get someone to do something, or go along with your plans. How did it work out? How did you feel about it? How did the other person feel?

4. THE FOUNDATION OF LEADERSHIP IS CHARACTER NOT CHARISMA

Focuses on [Hebrews 13:7-8](#)

Godly leadership involves: 1. a message worth remembering 2. a lifestyle worth considering 3. a faith worth imitating

If leadership is about character, not charisma, then how do we develop character?

Consider the 3 lessons from Hebrews 13 – what aspects of your lifestyle do you think are 'worth considering'? Todd said so much of the information that the world is not worth remembering – do you take in too much 'stuff that is of no value'?

5. LEADERSHIP CAN BE LEARNED

Focuses on [Mark 3:14](#)

What leadership skills have you learned (even if you don't always apply them)?

What are some ways to learn good leadership skills?

6. THE MOMENT YOU STOP LEARNING, YOU STOP LEADING

Focuses on [Ecclesiastes 10:10](#)

Discuss the statement 'hard work brings success.' (Todd disagreed with the concept, saying we need to work smarter)

Beyond just leadership skills, what are other area where we could learn more? Do you have favourite things you like to learn about? In what ways do you learn best? (reading, viewing, doing, ...)

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE NEHEMIAH AS A LEADER?

Read and discuss [Nehemiah 1:1-4, 11](#)

Todd taught that the Israelites felt discouraged, defeated, disgraced and depressed (and forsaken by God) because the walls were destroyed. Would you be willing to share about when you may have experienced some of these kinds of feelings? Did someone help to 'rebuild the walls' for you?

When news of exiled people, brokenness or famine hits you, do you react anything like Nehemiah? Do you sometimes cry, pray, fast, or act?

1. Nehemiah was sensitive to the needs around him (**Focuses on [Nehemiah 1:4](#)**)

2. Nehemiah was dependable (**Focuses on [Luke 16:10-13](#)**)

3. Nehemiah was available

Todd said that the 3 qualities listed above are a matter of choice (as opposed to gifts or abilities). Would you agree?

Nehemiah was obviously a person of prayer. Do you think that made him more sensitive? Have you found that when you pray more you tend to be more aware and sensitive to others? What are some other strategies for 'sensitivity training'?

Todd pointed out that Nehemiah must have been dependable because of the position he held. How dependable do you feel you are? What goes in to being a dependable person? How can we develop it more?

It's been said that God is more interested in our availability than our ability? Do you find that statement encouraging? What are some things that make it hard for you to be 'available'? How could you make yourself more ready to be used by God?