

LEADER NOTES
LEADERSHIP PART III
“LEADERS WHO GIVE LIFE”
APRIL 12-13, 2008

What do you think is significant about Nehemiah’s response to the news he receives about Jerusalem? (1:4-10)

There are a number of things that could be identified as significant in reading about Nehemiah’s response. Probably the first thing that stands out is how deeply moved he is when he hears the news. It is obvious that he is greatly impacted as it says that he wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed for several days. Then in verse 5 it describes Nehemiah’s prayer:

He praises God first (v. 5)

He confesses his part of the problem (v. 6)

He prayed on behalf of all the people (v. 6-7)

He claimed the promises of God (v. 5; 8-10)

He brought his desires before the Lord, and he was available to do his part (v. 11)

What do you feel were Nehemiah’s greatest challenges in trying to rebuild the walls?

For Nehemiah to even begin to undertake this massive task, he had to get released by King Artaxerxes from his position as cupbearer for a significant amount of time. He would also need a large amount of resources and materials from the King, and even protection in traveling to Jerusalem. Once he arrived in the city, he faced a number of other challenges. These include:

- An attitude of discouragement from the Israelites
- Lack of finances/resources
- Opposition from outside - Sanballet, Geshem, and Tobiah who mocked, ridiculed, and threatened the people
- Opposition from inside - people complaining the work was too hard and that the task was impossible
- Fear from the people
- Tiredness and laziness
- Corruption and lack of integrity in the leadership

What were some of the different roles that Nehemiah played as a leader in helping rebuild the walls?

Some of the roles people may identify that Nehemiah took on for this project might include:

Intercessor

Visionary

Planner

Project Manager

Laborer

Commander

Cheerleader

Warrior/Soldier

What were some the qualities or characteristics Nehemiah displayed that made him a great leader and enabled him to be successful in this endeavor?

The example Nehemiah was in his character and conduct gives us a great model for leadership still today:

- He was self-sacrificing (5:14-18)
- He was compassionate (1:1-4)
- He was a faith-filled, prayerful, discerning intercessor (1:5-11)
- He was a careful and practical planner (2:4-16)
- He was quick to identify with those he led (2:17)
- He was bold to confront hateful resistance (2:19-20)
- He was strategically wise in encouragement (4:10-23)
- He was undeterred by distractions (6:1-4)
- He was Word-centered and positive (8:1-12)
- He was sensitive to discern and correct confusion (13:4-31)

Four principles stand out from Nehemiah's life that made him an effective leader:

1. Compassion
2. Cooperation
3. Confidence
4. Courage

In his time as governor of Judah, Nehemiah exhibited humility, integrity, patriotism, energy, piety, and unselfishness.