



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

January 24, 2021

Issue 4

The Leadership Of Nehemiah

By: Ronnie Scherffius

Moses, Joshua, David — these are men who come to mind as great leaders in the Old Testament. From the Judges we would add Gideon and Samuel; considering the prophets, we would look to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and perhaps Amos. But at the heart of Hebrew History is a man who must stand as one of the great leaders of his age — Nehemiah.

Nehemiah's leadership was neither military nor political. He was no prophet or lawgiver. As a leader he encouraged, strengthened, and motivated the people to work. Through the leadership of Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt and Israel began to reemerge as a nation.

The leadership qualities of Nehemiah are abundant. In fact, we could list no less than 22 characteristics of leadership from the first two chapters alone! Let's note only a few of the most prominent.

Nehemiah was a leader who prayed (1:5-11). The prayer of Nehemiah provides evidence of his leadership. First, his appeal to, and reverence for God (1:5, 6) stands as a quality every leader of God's people should demonstrate. Second, the persistent nature of his prayer (6), a proof of deep faith (Lk. 18:8), is a highly cherished leadership trait. Third, Nehemiah's willingness to confess both his and the nation's sins (6, 7) reveals the honest and sincere heart of a godly leader. Finally, his appeal to God's righteous and faithful nature (8-11) establishes the depth of his faith and confidence in success at God's hand.

Nehemiah was a leader who planned for the future (2:6-8). A forward-looking leadership is an absolute necessity for growth and success. Nehemiah's "planning ahead" manifested such leadership. It is worthy to note that such planning gave both legitimacy and authority to Nehemiah's work (7). Letters from the king would confirm he was not a rogue, seeking a place in the land. Additionally, the king's letters would guarantee protection from his enemies; none would dare violate the authority of the royal ambassador. Furthermore, Nehemiah planned for needed provisions (8). The fundamental leadership quality of "counting the cost" is demonstrated by Nehemiah's wise planning.

Nehemiah was a leader who was aware of the situations and circumstances (2:13-15). A leader without knowledge, who does not know the circumstances, will never successfully lead. Nehemiah was not only aware of his circumstances, he knew them in minute detail (15). He personally gained the knowledge by surveying for himself, the state of the city walls. He was aware of what needed to be done *and* what it would take to accomplish the work. This is not leadership in theory but leadership in action!

What was the result of Nehemiah's leadership? "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work." (Neh. 4:6)

Before Nehemiah's arrival in Jerusalem, the people were "in great affliction and reproach" (Neh. 1:3). The wall of Jerusalem was "broken down" and the gates were "burned with fire." The leadership of Nehemi-

ah motivated the people to rebuild the wall, and in time would help bring about moral reform, victory over the opposing enemies, and restore religious practices in Jerusalem.

The church today needs men like Nehemiah. Let us pray God will direct and raise them up.

A Call to the Broken

Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery. Exodus 6:9

Isn't it ironic that the times when we need God the most, we listen to him least? It's hard to listen when you're in pain. You're so deeply consumed with suffering that it's hard to hear what others are saying. We turn inward. We shut down and shut out. We become physically weak and emotionally empty. The light in our eyes go dim. The spirit is gone. Hope seems lost.

This is when Jesus likes to step in. He is the champion of the downcast and discouraged. He came to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and liberty to the oppressed (Lk 4:18-19). While Jesus was on the earth he touched lepers, raised widows' sons, healed blind beggars, brought calm to the demon possessed, and taught lost sheep how to find the way back home.

Jesus cares about you! He's calling you! He loves you! He wants to help you find shelter under his wings. He wants to carry you in his mighty arms. He wants to pull you out of the pit and rescue you.

Don't let your broken spirit keep you from hearing his voice. He wants to save you from your bondage. Go to him! He will save you!

-Selected-

How Do I Move On?

Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Genesis 41:51-52

It's so easy to focus on the negative. There were plenty of negatives in Joseph's life. Even after Pharaoh elevated him to his right hand in the kingdom, there were still scars left on Joseph's heart. How could he forget the pain of being sold by his brothers. How could he forget the grief of being separated from his father?

But Joseph did exactly this, and he did it because he chose to do so. When you experience tragedy in life, there comes a point where you have a choice to make. You can choose to live in the past. You can continue to feel sorry for yourself. You can choose to dwell on what could have been but will never be. Or you can choose to move on.

But how do you move on?

Listen to these words from the apostle Paul (who also had a lot of heartbreak in life): "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

The births of Joseph's sons did not remove the scars from his heart. What these births did is remind Joseph of God's blessings in the midst of his afflictions, and Joseph CHOSE to focus on the blessings and not the scars.

That is the secret.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of January 24, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: Ron White
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Doug Jobes
A.M. Closing: Ron White
P. M. Opening: Dale Hill
P. M. Closing: Rick Bass

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.: Isaac Jobes
Wed. P.M.: Rick Bass

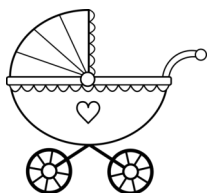
Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Kevin Sheeran

Open/Close Building: Randles

There will be a Diaper/Wipe/Gift Card collection in lieu of a Baby Shower for Alex Moser. A table will be set up in the hallway for your gifts. Congratulations Alex and Jesse.



Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Naomi Flonnory, who has been ill.

Happy Birthday: Phillip Garcia (24); Julia Atkinson (26); Trenton Jenkins (27)

If you would like to help make meals for Marguerite Arnot, please contact Jerri Jeffres 649-1416 or Angy Hutt 572-3079.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 30. We will be canvassing several neighborhoods in Victoria with invitations to study the Bible. Due to COVID-19, we will be hanging material on door knobs instead of door-knocking .

Please meet at the church building at 1 P.M. Material and maps will be provided at that time. If you are planning to assist in this effort, please let James Cammock know as soon as possible.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of January 17, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	47
A.M. Worship.....	53
Sunday Evening Worship.....	44
Wednesday Bible Class.....	52

Offering : January 17, 2021.....\$2,612

Reading for this week:

Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

Exodus 6:9

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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