

HOW LEADERS LEAD

Nehemiah 3:1-32

January 18, 2009 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Tom Landry, former coach of the Dallas Cowboys...
“The job of a coach is to make men do what they don’t want to do, in order to achieve what they’ve always wanted to be.”
 - 1. Leaders know how to do that too.
 - 2. Nehemiah was a leader like that.
- B. Its been said, **if you think you’re a leader but no one is following you, then you’re just taking a walk.**
 - 1. Nehemiah didn’t just take a walk around the broken walls of Jerusalem.
 - 2. He motivated and inspired people to help him rebuild them.
 - 3. How did he do it? How does a leader lead?

I. FIRST, LEADERS GIVE OTHERS A REASON TO PARTICIPATE.

- A. Nehemiah did this—2:17-18.
- B. Notice four things he did to get people to follow him.
 - 1. First, he identified the problem they had—17a.
 - 2. Second, he invited them to get involved—17b. Leaders don’t wait for people to volunteer. They enlist people.
 - 3. Third, he showed them the benefit of getting involved—17c.
 - 4. Fourth, he assured them that God was in the project—18.

II. SECOND, LEADERS GIVE OTHERS OWNERSHIP.

- A. Nehemiah challenged them to build the wall nearest to their own homes—3:10.
- B. Ownership of a project instills pride and encourages excellence.
- C. Remember, however, ultimately God owns it, not us. (Illus. Kitchen and Parlor at OBC).

III. THIRD, LEADERS GIVE OTHERS RECOGNITION.

- A. Nehemiah mentioned 74 people by name in chapter 3.
 - 1. He took time to describe what they did—3:3.
 - 2. He even remarked about their enthusiasm—3:20 (“zealously”).
- B. This reminds us that leaders don’t hesitate to recognize others.
 - 1. A survey in **USA Today** found that the number one reason people leave jobs is a lack of appreciation. Have you ever worked at a place that showed you no appreciation?
 - 2. This means leaders don’t mind sharing the spot light. (Illus. OKC church where pastor and song leader fought over who stood at the door as people left).
 - 3. Jack Benny was once warned that a new kid he invited on his TV show named Wayne Newton might steal the show. Benny’s response was, **“He better. If he can’t steal the show, I don’t want him.”**

CONCLUSION

- A. Leaders don’t do all the work themselves. They motivate others to help them. What would a quarterback be without his offensive line?
- B. Nehemiah tells us how to motivate others, how to lead.
 - 1. Give others a reason.
 - 2. Give others ownership.
 - 3. Give others recognition.
- C. If you want to be a leader, don’t just take a walk. Take others along with you.