

The Profile of a Leader

Chapter 18

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 44



Objective: To learn from the example of Nehemiah's leadership.



When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

—Nehemiah 6:16

Ezra is best known for making the plans for God's work, while Nehemiah is better known for being the builder who actually did the work that God assigned to both of them. Nehemiah can be described as very pragmatic. He believed in getting out there and seeing that the work of God got done. These men are both superb models of leadership, even though they are very different.

As we approach the book of Nehemiah, we should look for the principles of leadership, or the attributes God found in him to do His work. The book of Nehemiah shows us the "Profile of a Leader for the Work of God." Nehemiah demonstrated great strength, commitment, understanding, focus, courage, and perseverance. He was completely dedicated to doing God's work in God's way, and God blessed him greatly by protecting him and giving him success and again we see: *It is the plan of God to use the power of God in the people of God to accomplish the purposes of God according to the plan of God.*



1. True or false? Ezra and Nehemiah had the same leadership style.
2. True or false? The book of Nehemiah focuses on the kind of leader needed to do the work of God.
3. True or false? Nehemiah led people by patiently teaching them the Word of God.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What kinds of workers can Ezra and Nehemiah be compared to?
 - a. A shepherd and a fisherman
 - b. A soldier and a king
 - c. An architect and a builder
 - d. A priest and a musician

5. What does God primarily look for in a leader?
 - a. One with a burden for God's work
 - b. One with the right training for the job
 - c. One who is very talented
 - d. A perfect record of past service

6. How did Nehemiah respond when he heard about the condition of the wall of Jerusalem?
 - a. He got angry.
 - b. He wept and refused to eat.
 - c. He was indifferent.
 - d. He quit serving God.

7. How did Nehemiah respond when the king asked him why he was sad?
 - a. He denied it because it was forbidden to be sad in front of the king.
 - b. He smiled so the king would not find out.
 - c. He admitted his sadness, even though he could have been killed for it.
 - d. He ran away so the king's soldiers could not kill him.

8. Where did Nehemiah's vision come from?
 - a. His own desires
 - b. God
 - c. The king of Persia
 - d. The people in Judah

9. How will a good leader handle criticism?
 - a. He will not be able to stand it.
 - b. He will be able to crush his critics.
 - c. He will persevere in spite of it.
 - d. He will be able to change every critic's mind.

10. Which of the following are characteristics of a good leader? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. He will be a man of prayer.
 - b. He will do whatever the majority tells him to do.
 - c. He will eliminate his opposition.
 - d. He will be able to motivate people with his vision.

11. How strong were Nehemiah's convictions?

- a. He did not have any convictions
- b. Weak
- c. Average
- d. Very strong

12. What is a good leader's highest priority?

- a. His own plan
- b. Prosperity
- c. Achievement
- d. God



What do you consider to be unfinished work in your life? What leadership characteristic do you need God to develop in your life? What steps can you take this week to fulfill God's plan for your life?

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

—Romans 12:1-2



work.

Praise God for the goodness of His good and perfect plan and for inviting you to be a part of it. Ask Him to give you a strong vision for the work He has called you to do. Ask God to develop the characteristics in your life so that God can use you greatly to do His



Going Deeper

1. How did Nehemiah demonstrate the reality that he had a burden for the work that God was calling him to do? _____

2. How did he show that he was a man of prayer concerning the work God was assigning to him? _____

3. What were some of the ways Nehemiah demonstrated courage regarding the work of God? _____

4. Give some examples of Nehemiah's wise and practical leadership. _____

5. How did Nehemiah deal with the enemies who were thwarting his work? _____

6. What work may God be calling you to do for Him? _____

7. How many ways can you follow the example of Nehemiah? Explain. _____
