**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**Topic: The Making of a Leader ...learning from Nehemiah (1)**

**Trainer: Pastor Bill Vasilakis**

**May 18th, 2017**

**THE PYRAMID**

**OF**

**BALANCED SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**

People Management Skills

The Working of God

“Of Man”

“of God”

“of Self”

Personal Character/Self-Mastery

**THE ESSENCE OF LEADERSHIP**

* + - 1. **THE WORKING OF GOD**  
           
         … How does God transform us into men and women with a ‘compelling vision’, ‘clear strategy’, ‘courageous boldness’ and ‘coalescing faith’?  
           
         Nehemiah Chapter 1:1 – 2:9

1. **PEOPLE MANAGEMENT SKILLS**  
   …How can we lead people to follow us, outwork our visions and to cooperatively work with others to accomplish some great common goals.  
     
   Nehemiah Chapter 2:11-18  
     
   Nehemiah Chapter 3

… What kinds of opposition can we expect from our common enemy when we are moving forward to actually accomplish God’s will?  
  
Nehemiah Chapter 2:10; 2:18-20

Nehemiah Chapter 4.

1. **PERSONAL CHARACTER/SELF-MASTERY**…What’s the bottom line for followers when a crisis hits and our unity of purpose is threatened?  
     
   Nehemiah Chapter 5

…What’s the essence of ‘servanthood leadership’ that leaves a lasting influence and ‘self-absorbed leadership’ that is into short-term power?

Nehemiah 1New International Version (NIV)

Nehemiah’s Prayer

**1**The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, **2**Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

**3**They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

**4**When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. **5**Then I said:

“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **6**let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hearthe prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you.**7**We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

**8**“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, **9**but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’

**10**“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. **11**Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

# Nehemiah 2 New International Version (NIV)

### Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem

**2**In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, **2**so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, **3**but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

**4**The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, **5**and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

**6**Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

**7**I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? **8**And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. **9**So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

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**CATCHING THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD**

**NEHEMIAH 1-2:9**

**Nehemiah 1:11**, *“I was cupbearer to the king.”*

1. **Nehemiah is thinking of others   
   ... Refuse to be preoccupied with self**

**Nehemiah 1:2**, *“I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.”*

1. **Nehemiah starts walking in the shoes of needy people   
   ... Develop a heart filled with compassion & empathy**

**Nehemiah 1:4a**, *“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.”*

1. **Nehemiah allows God to melt his heart   
   ... A season of prayer is so good for you**

**Nehemiah 1:4b**, *“For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*

1. **Nehemiah responds to the promptings of God   
   ... The Spirit will lead you**

**Nehemiah 2:1**, *“In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before”*

1. **Nehemiah receives God’s enabling   
   ... God will empower, embolden and provide for you.**

**Nehemiah 2:8b**, *“And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.”*

**10**When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

### Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem’s Walls

**11**I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days **12**I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

**13**By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12321a)] Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. **14**Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; **15**so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. **16**The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

**17**Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” **18**I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

**19**But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

**20**I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no sharein Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

# Nehemiah 3New International Version (NIV)

### Builders of the Wall

**3**Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuiltthe Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. **2**The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.

**3**The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. **4**Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. **5**The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12333a)]

**6**The Jeshanah[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12334b)] Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. **7**Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. **8**Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. **9**Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. **10**Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. **11**Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. **12**Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

**13**The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah.They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12341c)] of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

**14**The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Rekab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.

**15**The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12343d)] by the King’s Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. **16**Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12344e)] of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes.

**17**Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah,carried out repairs for his district. **18**Next to him, the repairs were made by their fellow Levites under Binnui[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12346f)] son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. **19**Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle of the wall. **20**Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. **21**Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib’s house to the end of it.

**22**The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. **23**Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. **24**Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah’s house to the angle and the corner, **25**and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh **26**and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.**27**Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

**28**Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. **29**Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekaniah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs. **30**Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters.**31**Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner; **32**and between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.

**HOW DOES NEHEMIAH TURN VISION INTO ACTION**

**Nehemiah 2:11-3:32**

**LEADERSHIP AND FOLLOWERSHIP GO TOGETHER**

1. **Prayerfully and carefully plan**

**v11** *“I went to Jerusalem,* ***and after staying there three days*** *I set out during the night with a few men.* ***I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem****.”*

1. **Share your God given and confirmed vision at the right time**

**V17-18a** *“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire.   
Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.”*

* Clearly outline the problem or need
* Decisively and resolutely provide the answer
* Tell your personal God Story

1. **It Takes a Team**

**Inspired and Motivated People will Always Follow**

(2:18b) *They replied,* *“Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.*

**KEY TEAMWORK PRINCIPLES**

1. **Let’s all get fully engaged**

**Nehemiah 3:1** “*Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate.”*

**V32** “*And between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.”*

1. **Let’s all really get organised**

**V2** “*The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them*.”   
   
**V3** *“The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.”*

1. **Let’s all serve with a good attitude**

**V5** “*The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.”*

**V27** *“Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.”*

1. **Let’s all be wholehearted and zealous**

**V20** *“Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest*.”

**Ch 4:6** *“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”*

**Colossians 3: 23,** *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...”*

1. **Let’s all experience the miraculous power of a dedicated, disciplined, united team**

**Philippians 1:27** “*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.”*