

Broken Walls
Not Overwhelmed – Nehemiah 3
July 17 & 18, 2010

Godly leadership always faces opposition

But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel.

Nehemiah chapter 2 verse 10 (371)

- Expect opposition!
- ***Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter chapter 5 verse 8 (937)***

Leaders confront the facts

I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, I slipped out during the night....

Nehemiah chapter 2 verses 11 & 12 (372)

- Leadership is impossible without the facts
- Leadership = seeing the facts & adjusting for-the-better because of them
- Courage is not the absence of fear; it's obedience in spite of fear!

Be prepared to face & hear opposition

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing?" ...they asked. Nehemiah chapter 2 verse 19 (372)

- Who are those close to you who are opposing / will oppose God's work in you?
- Is it possible that in order for me to lead effectively, I may need to make new friends?
- ***My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel.***

Proverbs chapter 5 verse 1 (484)

Leaders keep themselves & others focused

I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, His servants, will start rebuilding this wall." Nehemiah chapter 2 verse 20 (372)

- How easily distracted am I as a leader?
- How good am I at staying focused on the "big stuff" God's asking me to pay attention too?
- That's why it's best to only work on 1 or 2 big things at a time

(over)

How to Not be Overwhelmed by Big Problems (*lessons from Nehemiah chapter 3*)

Dedicate your work to God

Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel. Nehemiah chapter 3 verse 1 (372)

- It's OK to feel as if you're not working in an area of your strength, especially during times of crisis / special need
- When you feel inadequate, do your best & dedicate all you do to God
- God always deserves our best - see Malachi 1:6-14 - ***“Cursed is the cheat who promises to give a fine ram from his flock but then sacrifices a defective one to the Lord. For I am a great King.”***

Organize your work. Have a plan!

50+ individuals / groups are mentioned as working on the rebuilding of the wall

- We tend to look at HUGE projects & get overwhelmed
- Nehemiah saw the HUGE project & broke it down into smaller manageable task
- Everyone works on their own task & when all of the individual tasks are done, the HUGE project is done
- We need to do the same...attack the big stuff in our lives by breaking them down into manageable, bite-size projects
- That way, we make slow & steady progress & accomplish the HUGE stuff in our lives

Don't go it alone!

Notice that everyone worked on a team & every team was next to 2 other teams

- None of us has the ability to go it alone & honor God. Pick one or the other... go it alone OR honor God
- I need encouragement to accomplish my difficult tasks in life which is why I need to surround myself with those who value the same thing I'm working on
- I need to surround myself with those I want to be like
- ***Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 33 (880)***

Leaders of others...

- See the not-so-obvious potential in others - *verses 1, 8 etc.*
- Don't allow personality conflicts to derail those you're leading - *verse 5*
- Realize the wisdom in allowing people to serve in the area of their passion - *verse 10, etc.*
- Allow individuals to soar - *verse 20*
- There's no ego in leadership - *all of chapter 3*

Next Weekend: Leaders don't run from opposition (*Nehemiah chapter 4*)