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MEET ME AT THE WALL TO FACE TEMPTATION Nehemiah: See You at the Wall

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Nehemiah 5:14-19

I. THREE ADVANTAGES OF LEADERSHIP

- POSITION - To be more
- POWER – To do more
- PRIVILEGE – To have more

“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful you don’t fall!” 1 Cor. 10:12

II. THREE TEMPTATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

1. YOU WILL BE TEMPTED TO MISUSE YOUR POSITION

“The early governors placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekles of silver from them in addition to food and wine.” (v. 15a)

2. YOU WILL BE TEMPTED TO ABUSE YOUR POWER

“Their assistants also lorded over the people.” (v. 15b)

TRUTH: LEADERSHIP IS NO LORDSHIP.

3. YOU WILL BE TEMPTED TO PROFIT FROM YOUR PRIVILEGES.

“The governor’s food allowance”(vs 14-18)

THE MARK OF AN UNCOMMON LEADER

“But I did not act like that!” (v 15c)

“I was governor there for twelve years” (v 14)

FACTS ABOUT NEHEMIAH’S LEADERSHIP

- He never took a salary.
- He never used an expense account.
- He refused to levy taxes.
- He refused to buy land for profit.
- He paid his servants from his own personal income to do public work.
- He daily fed over 150 people at his own personal expense.

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III. HOW TO KEEP YOUR INTEGRITY AS A LEADER

1. DEEPEN MY REVERENCE FOR GOD.

“Out of reverence for God I did not act like that.” (v. 15c)

REVERENCE FOR GOD MEANS TWO THINGS

- Realize God put me in this position.

“For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God. He promotes one and deposes another.” Ps. 75:6 (LB)

- Realize God is holding me accountable

“Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God ...?” Nehemiah 5:9

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Prov. 1:7

*“Obey your spiritual leaders and be willing to do what they say. For their work is to watch over your souls and God will judge them on how well they do ...”
Heb 13:17*

*“We who are teachers will be judged with greater strictness than others.”
James 3:1 (GN)*

TRUTH: THERE IS NO AUTHORITY WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

2. DEVELOP A LOVE FOR PEOPLE

Examples: vs 17-18

TRUTH: LOSERS FOCUS ON WHAT THEY CAN GET.
LEADERS FOCUS ON WHAT THEY CAN GIVE.

“David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skill he led them.” Ps. 78:72

(Paul) “Because of our love for you we were ready to share with you not only the Good News but even our own lives – you were so dear to us!” I Thess. 2:8 (GN)

“when I heard their outcry and these charges I was very angry.” Neh. 5:6

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3. DISCIPLINE YOURSELF FOR ETERNAL REWARDS.

“Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.”
(v. 19)

“Instead I devoted myself to the work on the wall. All my men were assembled there for the work we did and we did not acquire any land.” (v. 16)

TRUTH: LOSERS FOCUS ON THEIR RIGHTS.
LEADERS FOCUS ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

“Moses preferred to suffer with God’s people rather than to enjoy sin for a little while ... because he kept his eyes on the future reward.” Hebrews 11:24-25 (GN)

“God ... will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Heb. 6:10

“to the elders ... Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing ... not greedy for money but eager to serve, not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” 1 Peter 5:2-4

3 words used here to describe same leadership position:

- Elder – “presbuteros” (Presbyterian)
- Shepherd – “poimen” (pastor)
- Overseer – “Episcopas” (Episcopalian – bishop)

“Since then we know what it is to fear the Lord we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God and I hope it is also plain to your conscious. We’re not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but we’re giving you the opportunity to take pride in us so you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.” 2 Cor. 5:11

“Submit to their authority (that of the spiritual leaders). They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Heb. 13:7 (NIV)

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.’” Matt. 25:23

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