

Nehemiah: Leadership Principles

Part 9



Leadership Principles

Review:

- Central theme that runs through the Book of Nehemiah: **“Effective Leadership”**
- Definition of leadership:
Leadership is the power to influence others.

Leadership Principles

- Whenever we open the Word of God, we need to:
 - Read for information.
 - Receive understanding and revelation.
 - Respond with application.
- *Nothing changes until there is application, application, application.*

Leadership Principles

1. An effective leader is touched by the needs of people.

- Nehemiah 1:3-4

Alan Redpath once wrote:

- *“You can never lighten the load unless first you have felt the pressure in your own soul.”*
- Application:
- The thing that moves you to compassion might signal be the beginning of a new chapter in your life.

Leadership Principles

Application:

- The thing that moves you to compassion might signal be the beginning of a new chapter in your life.

Leadership Principles

2. An effective leader can start in any place or position.

- Nehemiah 1:11 *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 2:12
- *“God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem.”*

Leadership Principles

Application:

- Irrespective of your present job, God can put something else in your heart to do in His Kingdom.

Leadership Principles

3. An effective leader seeks direction from God.

- Nehemiah 1:4 states:

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.

Leadership Principles

Application:

- If God is calling you to do something, go to Him in prayer for guidance.

Leadership Principles

4. An effective leader takes risks.

- Nehemiah 2:11

11 I went to Jerusalem...

Leadership Principles

Application:

- God may not ask you to go 800 miles across the world.
- But he has commissioned you to take the risk to go and share the gospel of salvation.
- For you, maybe it is 8 steps down the hallway to a family member or co-worker, 800 steps up the road to a neighbour, or maybe 800 feet across the road to Tuxedo Court.

Leadership Principles

5. An effective leader plans.

Nehemiah 2:13-16

¹³ By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal 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;

Leadership Principles

Nehemiah 2:13-16

¹⁵ so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and re-entered 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.

Leadership Principles

Application:

- Clarify what God has called you to do and work with Him to formulate the plan.

Leadership Principles

6. An effective leader rallies the team to work.

- Nehemiah 2:1-18.
- *“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*
- Notice the language he used “**We**” “**Us**” **We**”

Leadership Principles

Application:

- Develop your skills to rally the team to work.

Leadership Principles

7. An effective leader manages opposition.

- Nehemiah 2:19-20
- *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 share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”*

Leadership Principles

Application:

- If your critics are listening to God's voice then listen to them.
- But, if they are singing a different tune, do what Nehemiah did: keep right on working and do not listen!

Leadership Principles

8. An effective leader manages discouragement.

- Nehemiah 4:10-11
- *Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”*
- *¹¹ Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”*

Leadership Principles

Application:

- Learn to manage discouragement.
- Know how to encourage yourself and others by point to God and His goal.

Leadership Principles

9. An effective leader is flexible.

- Nehemiah 1:11 “... I was the *cupbearer to the king.*”
- Nehemiah 8:9 “Nehemiah, *the governor...*”
- *Then, Nehemiah the governor ... said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.*

Leadership Principles

Application:

- We need to be flexible in the hand of God. Don't major in the title, major in the task.

Leadership Principles

10. An effective leader never quits!

- Nehemiah 6:15 *So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.*
- Nehemiah 7:73 *The priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the temple servants, along with certain of the people and the rest of the Israelites, settled in their own towns.*

Leadership Principles

Application:

- Whatever God has called you to do, do not quit!

Leadership Principles

- Today's Lesson.
- Chapter 1-7 focus on: God's people rebuilding the wall.
- Chapter 8 -13 shifts to: God rebuilding His people.
- Nehemiah 7:73-8:2
- Nehemiah 8:9

Leadership Principles

Note:

- The people listened attentively.
- The people wept.
- Then, Nehemiah told them not to grieve, for this was a day of celebration.
- Nehemiah 8: 11-12
- Nehemiah 8:18

Leadership Principles

Note:

- They continued reading until one day, something shifted...
- Nehemiah 9:1-3

Leadership Principles

- Note what they did:
- They **read** God's Word - 3 hours/day
- They **received** understanding, insight and revelation.
- Then they **responded** with open confession and worship – 3 hours/day.
- Leadership principle from today's lesson:

Leadership Principles

11. An effective leader builds up people.

- Nehemiah 9:3
- *³ They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.*
- Matthew 4:4
- *'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

Leadership Principles

- Isaiah 55:10-11
- *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*
- “Confession is good for the soul.”

Leadership Principles

- This old Scottish proverb actually reads:
- “Open confession is good for the soul.”
- 1 John 1:9: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Leadership Principles

- How Nehemiah went from rebuilding the wall to rebuilding the people.
 1. The assemblies were a time to **read** the Word.
 2. The leaders helped the people to **receive** (understand) the Word
 3. The people **responded** to the Word with confession and worship, followed by action.

Leadership Principles

Application:

- We are involved in building “walls” - ministries, businesses, families, etc. - but ultimately, remember that it is all about building people.
- We encourage people to read, receive and respond to the Word of God.

Leadership Principles

Final Note:

- Their prayer, confession and worship fanned the flames of revival, but it was their reading and understanding of God's Word that sparked the fires of revival, first in their souls and then in the nation!

Scriptures

Nehemiah 7:73-8:2

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, 8¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand.

Nehemiah 7:73-8:2

³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:9

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8: 11-12

“The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.” Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Nehemiah 8:18

18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

Nehemiah 9:1-3

On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads.² Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.³ They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.