

Accelerated success: Temptations of Leadership

Lee-Ann van Rensburg 19/08/2018

I Cor. 10:12 "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

Nehemiah 5: 14-19 "For the entire twelve years that I was governor of Judah—from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of the reign of King Artaxerxe—neither I nor my officials drew on our official food allowance. The former governors, in contrast, had laid heavy burdens on the people, demanding a daily ration of food and wine, besides forty piece of silver. Even their assistants took advantage of the people. But because I feared God, I did not act that way. I also devoted myself to working on the wall and refused to acquire any land. And I required all my servants to spend time working on the wall. I asked for nothing, even though I regularly fed 150 Jewish officials at my table, besides all the visitors from other lands! 18The provisions I paid for each day included one ox, six choice sheep or goats, and a large number of poultry. And every ten days we needed a large supply of all kinds of wine. Yet I refused to claim the governor's food allowance because the people already carried a heavy burden. Remember, O my God, all that I have done for these people, and bless me for it."

1. THREE TEMPTATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

- 1.1.** You will be tempted to misuse your position.
- 1.2.** You will be tempted to abuse your power.
- 1.3.** You will be tempted to profit from your privileges.

2. HOW TO KEEP YOUR INTEGRITY AS A LEADER

2.1. Deepen you reverence for God:

- You have to realize the magnitude of God and His role in your life. He is both loving father and king!

Psalms 75:6 "For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God. He promotes one and deposes another"

- Realize that God is holding you accountable.

- 2.2.** Develop deeper love for people. Focus on what you can give, not on what you can receive.
- 2.3.** Discipline yourself and keep your eye on the eternal reward in heaven.
- Disciplining yourself means limiting your own freedom.
 - Leaders focus on their responsibilities, not their rights.

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

Matthew 6:19-21 (AMPC) "Do not [a]gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust and worm consume and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. But [b]gather and heap up and store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal; For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Heb. 13:7 (NIV) "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."

Sermon Discussion Guide

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OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Have you ever dealt with a leader who abused their position and power? How did it feel to work under this person?
2. Can you see how the position, power and privilege that comes with success can lead to temptation?
3. When you see someone being hurt, misused or abused, do you get upset? Does this stir you to take action or do you stay passive?