

“NEHEMIAH – LEADERSHIP GOD’S WAY”

The testimony of Nehemiah, has served as an **inspiration** for Church leaders for **many** centuries.

Especially in the **manner** in which he **inspired** and **led** people.

In his **testimony** we see a **beautiful harmony** in the way in which a **spiritually minded** man uses the **practically minded** management gifts **given** to him by God.

For Nehemiah, **godliness** and **efficient** management, go hand in hand together.

With such **principles** Nehemiah could serve God in the palace of **Artaxerxes**, the most **powerful** king in the world, at that **time**.

Then he could be **moved** in God’s **providence** to serve on the **ruins** of the walls of Jerusalem.

Wherever Nehemiah was, these two **principles** of **godliness** and **efficiency** were applied.

It is **evident** also that Nehemiah was a strong **leader** with clear **objectives**.

These could be **summarised**, as him **living** and **managing** for the **honour** of the Lord.

Has not God said in His **Word**, that those “*who honour Me, I will honour*” a **promise** clearly **fulfilled** in the life of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah’s **example** clearly emphasises the **importance** of strong and effective **leadership**.

Such **strong** and **effective** leadership is **crucial** for the well being of a Church.

With this theme in mind I am going to select **certain** characteristics of Nehemiah’s testimony, which I hope will prove to be of **encouragement** to leaders and helpers alike.

NEHEMIAH’S INSPIRATION

It is evident that Nehemiah has the highest **regard** and **respect** for God.

Several times Nehemiah records **absolute truths** about the Sovereign God, demonstrating to us what **inspires** his godly **life** and **witness**.

- *“O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love Him and observe His commandments” 1.5*
- *“Now these are Thy servants and Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed by Thy great power, and by Thy strong hand” 1.10*
- *“Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.” 9.5*

Nehemiah confirms the constant and consistent, **respect** he has for the Almighty God when in the **final** chapter of his book he says. *“Spare me according to the greatness of Thy mercy” Nehemiah 13.22*

Through the **Word** of God and through **experience**, Nehemiah knew and **understood**, that **Almighty God** was - *Sovereign – Holy – Compassionately merciful – Infinite in Power and Grace – Completely Just and Righteous.*

Now while Nehemiah had a **deep, profound** and **reverent respect** for the Almighty God, he also enjoyed a **personal relationship** with Him.

Several times he makes **reference** to this **relationship**.

- *“Neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem” Nehemiah 2.12*
- *Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good to me” Nehemiah 2.18*

- *“And my God put it into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people that they might be reckoned by genealogy” Nehemiah 7.5*

Nehemiah's realised, that to be an **effective** leader in God's **service**, he needed first and foremost to be **inspired** by his **respect** for the Almighty God.

Secondly to be an **influential** leader he needed to be **inspired** and **strengthened** through his personal **relationship** with the Almighty God.

These two **principles** remain **essential** today and so will also **inspire** us, in the same way as they did Nehemiah.

NEHEMIAH'S BURDEN

When Hanani **returned** from Jerusalem and **briefed** Nehemiah about the **terrible** state of Jerusalem and its **inhabitants** he immediately **realised** the **significance** of the news.

“3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. 4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven” 1:3-4

Nehemiah could have **left** the matter and selfishly carried on with his **duties** in the palace but this news came upon him and truly **burdened** his **mind** and **heart**.

The sort of **issues** that **grieve** people, **indicate** where their heart really lies!

Why was Nehemiah so **burdened** and **upset**.

Why was he so **moved** in mind and heart?

First and **foremost** God by His Holy Spirit **especially** burdened Nehemiah about this **matter**.

The **revival** in Jerusalem can be **traced** back to God **working** by His Sovereign Grace in this one man Nehemiah in **particular**.

- So Nehemiah realizes that the **reproach** of the people in Jerusalem and the cities **condition** is actually a **reproach** upon the **name** of the Lord.
- The future long term **welfare** of Jerusalem was at **stake**
- Nehemiah realised the **Messianic importance** of the Jews in Jerusalem and the **surrounding** areas.
- He would have been well aware of the **prophetic promises** of Christ.
- So for Nehemiah this **matter** was not just a **practical problem**; it was a **Messianic Salvation** issue!

This burden for Nehemiah, in **understanding** the **practical** and **spiritual** issues at stake, **moulded** and **dramatically** affected his **future** and **lifestyle**!

This **burden**; in **partnership** with God's **call**, **results** in him **leaving** the **comfort** of the Palace to **serve** Him on the walls of **Jerusalem**.

Seeking the **welfare** of God's people.

In this **call** Nehemiah is a **type** of Jesus Christ who left the **palace** of heaven to come to this earth on a **mission** to save His people.

Now Nehemiah's burden **affected** his whole being and could not be **hid** from the world.

“2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, 3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?” 2:2-3

In the **wisdom** of God the heartfelt burden of Nehemiah for God’s **honour** and God’s Church was used for good to give an **opportunity** to speak to the king.

NEHEMIAH’S WISDOM

Now we are going to **consider** certain **aspects** of Nehemiah’s **testimony** of personal wisdom, which give insights into why his **leadership** was so **effective** and mightily **used** by God.

- **A Praying man**

There are no less than **nine** references to **prayer** in the book of Nehemiah, **eight** of which relate to Nehemiah and **one** to the Levites. Prayer was an **essential** part of Nehemiah’s life.

For example it was his **first resort** when Hanani told him of the **problems** at Jerusalem. In this prayer recorded in chapter 1 we **read** of his **Adoration unto God**, **Confession unto God**, **Supplication unto God** and his **Dependence upon God**.

Real **adoration** and sincere **confession** drew him by **faith** unto God to ask for His help in a spirit of true **dependence**.

God gave him the **burden**. Nehemiah took that **burden** to the Lord.

Nehemiah shows first and foremost he was a **praying** man and therein we have one of the great **strengths** of his **remarkable** leadership.

Such an **attitude**, **commitment** and **lifestyle** affected him **wherever** he was.

This was **proven**, when the king asks what his **request** was, he **immediately** *“Prayed to the God of Heaven.”* Prayer, for Nehemiah was as **important** in the **palace** as out of the **palace**.

Later when facing **danger** and fear he **prayed** *“Now therefore O God strengthen my hands”*

So Nehemiah’s effective leadership was **supported** by his **personal** prayer life.

He **unashamedly** testifies to his **dependence** upon God through such **prayer**, really **appreciating** the **value** of prayer in **service** for the Lord.

This is also clearly evidenced in the way He **encourages** his workers in public prayer, understanding its **importance**.

- **A Thoughtful man**

Nehemiah’s **response** to the news about Jerusalem serves as a **vital guide** for wise leadership.

There was no unwise knee jerk **reaction** without **thought** or **prayer**.

His first reaction was to sit down and seriously **contemplate** the situation.

His sincere **thoughtfulness** for the cause of God’s people is **evidenced** in his **sorrow**, **fasting** and **prayer**.

Nehemiah was a **thinking** man.

It could not be said of Nehemiah that his **heart** ruled his **head**.

It is **interesting** to note that when he **arrived** in Jerusalem he again shows this **thoughtfulness** by first spending time **confidentially** assessing the situation for himself.

“So I came to Jerusalem and dwelt there three days.”

Therefore his **decisions** and **direction** came as a result of **careful thought**.

This is **evidenced** in his thoughtful planning for the **building** of the gates.

“ Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.” 3:1

“After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith’s son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner. 3:31

The first gate Nehemiah mentions to be **repaired** is the **Sheep gate**.

This was **known** also as the **gate** of **sacrifice**.

The **last** gate Nehemiah mentions for **repair** is the **Miphkad gate**.

This gate was **known** as gate of **registration or accountability**.

Nehemiah **knew** that God calls his people to **sacrificial service** to give the **best** for the Lord, and for this **call** we will one day have to **give an account**.

- **A Practical man**

Nehemiah was undoubtedly a **spiritually** minded man, but such a **spiritual** mind made him also a very **practical** man.

He understood the value of God’s **providence**, and was ready to **respond** to every opportunity of serving God **practically**.

This is evidenced in the **manner** in which he was **ready** to give to the king the **practical requirements** of his **mission** to Jerusalem.

So when the king **asked** him what was his **request** he **prayed** and then **stated** his needs after which he was able to **record**.

“And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.” 2:8

The point being, that he was **alert** and **ready** for a God given opportunity to **present** the **practical** needs.

So there and then he was able to give a full and **concise** business-like **account** of the **timing** and **practical** needs for the **mission**.

The **thoughtful** man was a **practical** man who **respected** God’s providential **timing** and **provisions**.

Throughout the book Nehemiah **demonstrates** this essential partnership in God’s **dealings** between the **spiritual** and the **practical**.

- **A Committed man**

Nehemiah had a deep **sense** of God’s calling him to the **work** at Jerusalem. On many occasions he was **challenged** to give up the work or **compromise** with the enemies of God.

These enemies were so **angry** that someone was **now** in Jerusalem seeking the **welfare** of God’s people!

On each occasion Nehemiah remained **true** to his God and **committed** to his calling.

He **understood** the **significance** of the work given to him to do by God and the **danger** of **distraction**.

Facing Deceit

“3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? 4 Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. 6.3-4

Facing Slander

“8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. 6.8

Facing Temptation

And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. 6.11

- Nehemiah **refused** to meet with his **enemies**.
- He **refused** to be put off by **slander**
- He **refused** to **misuse** the House of God.
- He refused to be distracted from his **commitment** to the work of the Lord.

We live in a culture where such **firmness** and **intolerance** are regarded as society's greatest **enemy**.

Nevertheless we are **called** by God like Nehemiah to stand **resolutely** on the walls and not come down from the great work to **compromise** with evil and error.

- **A Focused man**

Nehemiah was **wise** to the attempts of satan, to **distract** him from the work.

He **understood** his responsibility to **discern** and resist **distractions** knowing satan's use of them to **delay** the Lord's work.

There is a great **lesson** in Nehemiah's statement ***“I am doing a great work so that I cannot come down”***.

He understood the **significance** of his work.

It was a **work** for the Lord and great in its **purpose** and **potential**.

- **An Assured man**

The wisdom of Nehemiah was **evidenced**; by his **faith** and **assurance** in God, being consistent **wherever** and **whatever**.

Various **statements** in his account **confirm** this to us, and **encourage** us also to remember that **assured faith** in God is a vital tool in **leadership** as a means of **encouraging assurance** in others.

So for example he makes a **strong** statement to rebut his **enemies** Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem – ***“The God of heaven He will prosper us”***

Later he makes a **rallying** call to the people in fear. ***“Our God shall fight for us”***

Nehemiah's faith was **centred** upon the **objective** reality of God.

It was **firmly** placed upon what God had **revealed** about Himself in His Word.

Nehemiah's wisdom is **evident** in his testimony of **thoughtfulness**, **prayerfulness**, **faith**, **dependence**, **commitment** and **assurance**.

Such a man could be **used** by God to both manage a huge **project** and manage **people** effectively.

We will **move on** to consider Nehemiah's **management** of the **people** and the **project**.

This required **three** particular aspects. **Motivation – Organisation – Discipline**.

NEHEMIAH'S MOTIVATION

President Eisenhower of USA said *"Leadership is the ability to get a person to do what you want him to do, when you want it done, in the way you want it done, because he wants to!"*

Such a **leadership** gift of **motivation** was **given** by God; to Nehemiah, and is proven in his **testimony**.

- **United the people**

Nehemiah was **confident** in his God and in God's Word. So when he **stood** before the people understanding the **difficulties** they **faced**, he spoke with God given **authority**.

He straightway identified himself **personally** with the **difficulties**, with the **need**, and with the **people**.

He didn't arrive in state to give **orders** and then **disappear**.

No his first **objective** is to **identify** himself with the **people** and with the **project**.

So he **addresses** them **accordingly**.

"17 Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me.." 2:17-18a

Notice Nehemiah speaks in the **plural**. *"The distress that we are in" – "Let us build up the wall of Jerusalem"*

The **response** of the people to such **clear** and **definite** leadership was **positive**. They were **encouraged** and **motivated** into action.

"And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work." 2.18b

This principle of **identifying** himself as a leader, **personally** with the **people**, and the **project**, encouraging **unity** and a sense of **purpose**, is seen on other **occasions**. For example –

"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof" 4:6

"Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them." 4:9

"In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us." 4:20

Nehemiah's example here teaches us the absolute **importance** of motivational leadership, which **unites** people into action.

- **Compassionately Encouraged**

Nehemiah's chief method of **encouragement** was to focus the people's **mind** on the Lord in **faith** and **prayer**. This was **evident** at his first meeting as their Leader.

"I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me"

This was evident later, when **discouraged** by the **enemy**, because of their **verbal onslaught** and **threats**.

The attack of Sanballat and Tobiah:

"2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall." 4:2-3

Their United force:

"7 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, 8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it." 4:7-8

Nehemiah **stands** before the people and **compassionately**, **encourages** them to look unitedly to the Lord in **faith** and in **prayer**. So he was able to record -

"Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them." 4:9

When the people were **overwhelmed** with the amount of **rubbish** and fear of **attacks**

"14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses." 4:14

From this **example** we can learn the **significance** of **encouragement**, which is **continual** and **compassionate** to the needs of the workers.

Encouragement that **motivates** a sense, that every worker is being **valued** and **cared** for.

Encouragement that **focuses** peoples **mind**, first upon the Lord, and then upon their **responsibilities** to **resist** the enemy.

Under the constant **threats** from the enemy Nehemiah's **inspirational** leadership ensured the efficient and prudent, **defence** of the city.

Then to **ensure** the work **continued** he gave to each **builder** and **labourer** the **security** of a **sword** at their side.

"17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. 18 For the builders,

every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me. Ne 4:17-18

From this we are **reminded** spiritually that one of the most **effective** ways to **encourage** the people to continue the work in times of **opposition**.

Is to encourage them with the **comfort** and **security** of the **Word of God**.

Otherwise known as the **Sword** of the **Spirit**

- **Ready to Praise**

Nehemiah was a leader who was **willing** to praise and **recognize** the value of special **effort**. For example we read of him **praising** Baruch.

“After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.” 3:20

Maybe Nehemiah **recognized** in this young man the **potential** for future **leadership**?

Then there are the Tekoites who **despite** their **lazy**, **exalted** and **proud nobles** being unwilling to help them. Are **mentioned** for going on to build an **additional** section.

“And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.” 3:5“After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out even unto the wall of Ophel.” 3:27

Obviously Nehemiah had come **alongside** these workers who had been **discouraged** by their nobles.

He **encouraged** them and **motivated** them in such a manner that they did **more** than originally **allocated** to them.

They worked so **hard** and **effectively** they had time to do more.

Nehemiah teaches us never to **underestimate** the importance of **praise** and **encouragement**.

- **Personally involved**

Nehemiah was not a man who directed **proceedings** from **afar** but was a man of the people, **working** with the people.

So at a time of **danger** we find him up on the **walls** with the people **encouraging** **directing** and **inspiring** them.

How **different** from those nobles who **refused** to work on the walls. *“But their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord” 3.5*

The **conclusion** of this sad statement teaches a very **important** principle.

When people **refuse** to work in the ordinary labouring ministries of the Church, however **important** and **high** up in society.

They are not only **letting** down their fellow **members**, they are actually **dishonouring** “*their Lord*”.

Thankfully in Nehemiah’s wall **building** project they were in the **minority**.

Under the **reviving** power of God’s Holy Spirit, and Nehemiah’s **leadership** and **inspirational** motivation, the **majority** are described as a people having *“a mind to work.”*

NEHEMIAH'S ORGANISATION

The testimony of Nehemiah teaches us that **efficient** and **effective** organisation of people in a ministry does **matter** in the **work** of the Lord.

Certain key aspects of Nehemiah's **management** can be **identified** which have a **bearing** on **today's ministry** for the Lord.

- **All kinds of people**

People from all walks of life **worked** for the Lord in the **building** of the wall. In chapter three we read of Priests, Goldsmiths, Perfumers, Rulers, Merchants and the daughters of Shallum.

All **equipped** by God for the **task**, **despite** their **backgrounds**.

Some **re-built** the walls, some **laboured** in **clearing** the rubbish and **carrying** the stones.

Both **builders** and **labourers** were alike **valuable** to Nehemiah's organisation.

They worked in self-contained teams with a **united** purpose of **completing** the wall.

Each unit working **together**, to **complete**, their assigned task.

All initially **organised** and then **overseen efficiently** by Nehemiah.

So in the work of a Church each **ministry** is made up of a **team of workers** from various walks of life.

They are **delegated** both **practical** and **spiritual** responsibilities and **equipped** by the Lord to **fulfil** their task.

These **various** ministries of a Church have a **common** purpose, to work for the **glory** of **Christ** in the **building** up of **His Church**.

But in such ministries **efficient organisation** is **vital**.

- **Co-ordination**

Nehemiah uses certain **expressions** on a number of occasions to **build** up in our minds, the picture of **co-operation** in the work, to **build** the wall.

So for **example** he writes, ***"Next to him" – "Next to them" – "Beyond him" "Beyond them" "Beside him"***

Each **expression** reminds us that the teams **recognised**, they were **interlocked** in a **common** purpose.

- **Proactive resistance to the enemy**

Nehemiah didn't wait for the enemy to attack before he **organised** the people. He pro-actively arranged the people in **readiness** to resist the enemy.

"Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows." 4:13

Nehemiah teaches us the **importance** in leadership of being pro-active in our defence.

His great desire was to **protect** the people under him and **continue** the work.

The object is to set up our defences pro-actively to stop the enemy **getting** into the camp. Because it is far more **difficult** to get the **enemies** out of the camp once they are in.

So Nehemiah was **strong** in the Lord and in the **power** of His might.

He stood **resolutely** against the enemy.

- **Attainable goals**

Making **progress** in the building of the walls was **dependent** upon each worker having clearly **assigned** duties.

Nehemiah set **attainable** goals for each team on the basis of having **committed** workers.

Illust: I remember an experienced business man telling me that the secret of costing business overheads and building that business; was to accept the fact that the majority of your workforce will only give average commitment or less. Anything above is bonus.

This may be the case in **business** but it should not be in the case of a **Church**.

A Church is truly **blessed** when its leaders can set **attainable** goals **knowing** they have very **committed** workers.

But we always need to **remember** that very committed workers **deserve** leaders who themselves are **hardworking** and provide **inspirational** leadership.

- **Appointments**

Eventually Nehemiah had to appoint a **ruler** for Jerusalem.

In such an **appointment** Nehemiah realised that **two principles** were essential for leadership, **faithfulness** and the **fear** of God.

It was these two **principles** that guided him in the **appointment** of Hanani.

“1 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, 2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.” 7:1-2

NEHEMIAH'S DISCIPLINE

On several **occasions** Nehemiah's testimony **displays** his **disciplined** approach to opposition.

There is no hint of **compromise** or **assimilation** with the world in Nehemiah's **leadership**.

Neither will Nehemiah give **any ground** to those who **harm** the work of God. On several occasions in his **testimony** we **learn** of Nehemiah's **strong stand** against evil.

- **Nobles**

These so called **exalted** ones had **refused** to lower their **dignity** and take up a **trowel** or **carry** some stones. Instead the nobles seized an **opportunity** to profit from the **situation** and **capitalise** on the **commitment** of the poorer people.

“6 And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. 7 Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?” 5:6-7,9

Here we see Nehemiah is not overcome, by **power**, **wealth** or **influence**.

He deals with the nobles on **behalf** of the **poor** and the **oppressed**.

In fact he is very **angry** with the nobles for their **oppression**.

Nehemiah teaches us that in the **management** of people, the **Word** of the Lord, and the **Work** of the Lord must never be **undermined**, by worldly **power** and **influence**.

- **Sanballat and Tobiah**

Nehemiah's **management** of people teaches us that when the **honour** of the Lord is at stake there are **times** when we need to be **extremely** firm.

He stood up to Sanballat and Tobiah in the **strength** of the Lord.

It was not **long** before they made their **opposition** known and yet from the **outset** Nehemiah stood against the evil.

It was not time for **alliance** with the enemy but **dedication** to the **work** of the Lord.

"Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem." 2:20

Towards the end of Nehemiah's **account** he **records** his deep **grief** over a **situation** which fully tested his resolve to **discipline** for God's **glory**.

"7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. 8 And it grieved me sore: 13:7-8

When returning to Jerusalem he learns that Eliashab the priest had **given** Tobiah a **room** in the Courts of the house of God.

Imagine how **upset** Nehemiah must have been.

After having overseen the **work** and **experienced** the **blessing** of the Lord in the face of **opposition**, he returns back to Jerusalem, to find **compromise** in the **leadership**.

An **alliance** with the same **enemy** who had **opposed** God's work from the **outset**.

Nehemiah reacts **quickly** and **decisively**.

Here was great **danger** to the work of the Lord, and **enemy** of the Lord was in the **camp** at the behest of a **compromised** priest.

"8 Therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber. 9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense." 13:8-9

Nehemiah **personnel** management **teaches** us that in **dealing** with people, there are times when **decisive** and **disciplined** action is **required** for the **honour** of the Lord and the **work** of the Lord.

Jesus himself **cleansed** the Temple with **pure** and **righteous** anger because His Father's house was **made** a den of **thieves**.

Nehemiah also applies the same **disciplined** approach to the **problem** of the Levites not being **properly supported** in their ministry.

Also the **non-observance** of the Sabbath day and **marriages** to those given over to **idolatry**.

For Nehemiah **discipline**, bringing about **separation** from evil, was part of his **leadership** duties.

Nehemiah's leadership teaches us an **important** lesson.

The **glory** of Christ in the Church cannot be **evidenced** in a **compromised** situation.

The problem has to be **dealt** with.

CONCLUSION

Nehemiah was **inspired** by the **greatness** of God and no doubt by the **prophetic promise** of the **Messiah** Jesus Christ.

He understood the **significance** of the Temple and the Walls of Jerusalem to God's **honour**, and **His** future plans of salvation.

Nehemiah kept the people **focussed** on their mission to build the wall for God's glory, no doubt **understanding** the deeper Messianic **implications** of such a work.

His faith serves as an **inspiration** to us to work in our **Churches** for the glory of the **Messiah** Jesus Christ.

Burdened for God's **glory** and the **welfare** of God's people; Nehemiah **led** the people and **organised** the work **prayerfully**, with **wisdom**, **motivation** and **discipline**.

His testimony **remains** for all time as an **example** of the **high regard** God places upon His **work** in the Church in both **personnel** management and **project** management.