



Let Us Arise and Build: Leadership in Society (Nehemiah)

REGENCY CHURCH OF CHRIST (Mobile, AL)
Spiritual Enrichment Lectureship
February 17, 2013

Speaker: Ray Reynolds (Gulf Shores, AL)

Introduction: When we are young, we don't always think about the past...we are looking to the future. As we look into the book of Nehemiah we see his balanced approach to ministry. He wasn't afraid to look to the future, but he also kept his feet grounded in the past (in a good way). We need to remember that we are leaving a legacy behind us. A fear among the leaders within our fellowship is that we are not adequately training our young people for service and leadership. There is concern over the direction of the home, churches, and the nation. There is a fear that we won't have enough godly leaders to move us forward in the will of God. What we need is more leaders like Nehemiah! What can we learn from him? Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. Nehemiah Shares His Calling

Nehemiah shares his story with us, either by himself or through another source.

Christians need to ask themselves, why is this story in the Bible?

Nehemiah is a story that must be told because of this man's character and leadership.

It also must be told because we need more people like him today!

II. Nehemiah Leaves His Past Behind

Remember that Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the Persian emperor, Artaxerxes.

He had a high place in the Persian court.

The king enables him and empowers him to do great things.

He puts all of that behind him when he takes off to Jerusalem.

III. Nehemiah Pursues His Mission

Some people are good at writing mission statements.

Others might be good at memorizing the mission statement or motivating people.

Nehemiah lived it! He inspired others to live it as well!

IV. Nehemiah Conquers His Fears

Nehemiah shares his vision with Artaxerxes, having carefully created an opening.

Notice the immediate prayer of Nehemiah as the door of opportunity opens.

When the vision is shared with Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, the response is different.

Nehemiah adopts a more assertive stance, but not really confrontational.

V. Nehemiah Ignores His Opposition

The Jews divide the tasks up among themselves and start working!

While he implements this great work he has opposition within and without.

VI. Nehemiah Honors His Spirit

He was a leader, pure and simple, but he connected with the people.

He had a contagious spirit - a connecting personality.... Because HE WAS REAL.

He wasn't trying to be somebody he WAS NOT!

Something drew people to him? Here are some words to describe him.....

1. **Humble**
2. **Compassionate**
3. **Visionary**
4. **Strength**
5. **Organized**
6. **Integrity**
7. **Courageous**

People loved him and followed him because they could relate to him!

Nehemiah Accomplishes His Goal

They were successful because they had great leadership.

They had someone to guide them, encourage them, and move them forward.

He accomplished his goal of rebuilding the wall and reviving the people because he
DID NOT DO THE WORK ALONE!

We need to lead! But we need to work together with other Christian leaders.

Remember that the stories of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are intertwined!

Conclusion: The theme of this Spiritual Enrichment is "Let Us Arise & Build." Walls are interesting. They could be used to keep people in or keep people out. Which concerns you more? The Area-Wide youth series is about ONE: SEVEN and the seven aspects of Christian unity as seen in Ephesians chapter 4. There may be no better time, and no better age, then now to focus on such a subject. Are you ready to arise and build? Will you follow the Lord? Will you submit to His will for your life?