

## LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH #18 "Seeing and Meeting Needs"

Neh 11:1-31

*Bible school: Professor going to teach about the Good Samaritan. Dressed up as a homeless man/injured/asking for help. None of the student/future Pastors stopped and met the need. They were focused on their lecture about the Good Samaritan.*

### I. SEEING NEEDS

- A. A key component of leadership is awareness: Ability to see and recognize needs and/or problems
  - 1. **Prov 27:23** *Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.*
  - 2. There will be needs/problems in every church/every people grouping
    - a. Here: Jerusalem is unpopulated...therefore vulnerable and not progressing
  - 3. This causes problems...and lack of progress
    - a. Fail to see problems and fail to meet the needs
- B. Failure to see needs demonstrates a lack of maturity – and a lack of leadership
  - 1. **Because of self-centeredness: Phil 2:20** *For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*
    - a. Priest/Levite: One saw – did nothing...other avoided so he wouldn't see
  - 2. **Because we haven't trained ourselves to focus on needs – or focus on others**
    - a. It takes work: Jesus – lift up your eyes and see...Develop spiritual eyesight
  - 3. This is a skill we must develop now – because we will need it later
    - a. People? b. People groups? c. Work?

### II. MEETING NEEDS

- A. Seeing needs/knowing there are problems is not enough
  - 1. Critics and rebels see needs and problems...and point them out
    - a. But they aren't part of the solution! The needs are still not met!
  - 2. The crucial need is for someone to do something about what they see
    - a. Acts 6: There are problems with the food distribution...find some men and put them on it!
- B. 2 levels of involvement in meeting needs
  - 1. **Being assigned: V1 they cast lots...**
    - a. No special burden...it has to be done; You are chosen!
      - 1. They were willing to accept being 'chosen' as the will of God!
        - a. **Neh 11:2** *And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.*
      - 2. Lesson: don't turn down opportunities!
  - 2. **Volunteering: V2 those who willingly offered themselves...**
    - a. They didn't wait till they were asked...they saw the need and said "we can help"

### III. SACRIFICE

- A. Important note: You can't make impact without sacrifice
  - 1. Some want to make impact without cost/without inconvenience
    - a. **RYR:** *I want to be a disciple – but I don't want it to cost me anything financially*
    - b. **Luke 9:** *I will follow – not secure/family approval/other things first...*
- B. Our scripture is choosing men/volunteering for difficult duty
  - 1. Jerusalem: Broken down/sparsely populated/dangerous
    - a. Not a convenient/safe/desirable/advantageous place to live
  - 2. But it has to be done! There is a need!
    - a. Ministries/people/cities/churches that are no fun/undesirable – but it is a need
  - 3. This must be learned now/worked out now so we can make crucial decisions later

### IV. BLESSING

- A. There is a blessing on volunteers
  - 1. **They are a blessing to others**
    - a. **Neh 11:2** *And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.*
  - 2. **They are a blessing to their Pastors:** Paul names/takes note of... **Col 4:11** *Justus/who are a comfort to me...*
  - 3. **They are remembered by God:** God/the author of the Bible causes them to be remembered – by name!
    - a. It comes back to you: Nehemiah volunteered...no accident he has volunteers!