Leadership Points from Nehemiah 1, 2

* It took integrity to be a cupbearer.
  + Start with character.
* Though Nehemiah lived far from Jerusalem he was concerned about the people there.
  + Can’t think only of ourselves and those close to us.
* He prayed.
  + We need God’s help and must recognize the need for it.
* He confessed sin.
  + An expression of humility.
  + Must not think too highly of ourselves. Rom. 12:3-8
* Was familiar with the Scriptures.
  + We can’t lead in the right direction without it.
* He didn’t rush into it.
  + Don’t be guilty of paralysis by analysis, but the walls had been down 140+ years.
  + Think things through and act at the best time.
* He prayed again.
* He had formulated a specific plan.
  + Don’t simply want things to be better—have a plan.
* Know that there will be opposition.
* Showed discretion in not telling everyone until it was time.
  + Must be able to keep secrets.
  + Communicate, but with discretion and good judgment.
* Gained a thorough understanding of the situation.
  + Was able to speak with authority and clarity.
* Used the word *we*.
  + Good leaders are servants.
* Gave the people reasons to believe they could be successful.
  + Don’t create unrealistic expectations.
  + Know the Scriptures, people’s abilities, the obstacles, etc.
* Answered the opposition.
  + God is with us.
  + Saw them as outside the fold.

Leadership Points from Nehemiah 3-5

* Importance of organization.
  + Have a plan.
  + Put some specifics in the plan.
* A lot of leaders were involved.
  + *We* and *us* usually work better than *you.*
  + Yet, the Tekoites worked despite the failure of their nobles.
* You will face opposition.
* Pray!
  + Prayer doesn’t exclude the need for action, but it is vital.
* Those whom you lead may become weary and/or discouraged and you must help them.
* Nehemiah took the threats seriously.
* Help people know what they are fighting for.
* Nehemiah was involved.
* Don’t ignore internal problems.
* Though angry, he took time to think.
* He took on the powerful.
* Got everyone involved.
* Did not lead for personal gain.

Leadership Points from Nehemiah 6-8

* Leaders will face opposition.
  + Success always attracts detractors.
  + Some you expect to be on your side will disappoint you.
* The opposition will not always be honest with you.
* Don’t allow the opposition to stop the work.
* Don’t be worn down.
* Know that false accusations will be made.
* Prayed for strength.
* Must have perception and courage.
* Wise as serpents. Matt. 10:16
* Courageous. 2 Sam. 23:11, 12
* Leave judgment/vengeance to God.
* Mission accomplished.
* He delegated responsibilities.
* Nehemiah recognized the danger and planned for it. Cf. Acts 20:28-31.
* Both leaders and the people must know God’s word.
* Change if necessary.

Leadership Points from Nehemiah

* It took integrity to be a cupbearer.
  + Start with character.
* Though Nehemiah lived far from Jerusalem he was concerned about the people there.
  + Can’t think only of ourselves and those close to us.
* He prayed.
  + We need God’s help and must recognize the need for it.
  + Prayer doesn’t exclude the need for action, but it is vital.
* He confessed sin.
  + An expression of humility.
  + Must not think too highly of ourselves. Rom. 12:3-8
* Was familiar with the Scriptures.
  + We can’t lead in the right direction without it.
  + Both leaders and the people need this knowledge.
* He didn’t rush into it.
  + Don’t be guilty of paralysis by analysis, but the walls had been down 140+ years.
  + Think things through and act at the best time.
  + Even when he was angry in ch. 5 he took time to think.
* He had formulated a specific plan.
  + Don’t simply want things to be better—have a plan.
  + Organization is important.
  + Use specifics in planning.
* Know that there will be opposition.
  + Success always attracts detractors.
  + Some you expect to be on your side will disappoint you.
  + Nehemiah answered the opposition.
  + The opposition will not always be honest with you.
  + Don’t allow the opposition to stop the work.
  + Don’t be worn down.
  + Know that false accusations will be made.
* Showed discretion in not telling everyone until it was time.
  + Must be able to keep secrets.
  + Communicate, but with discretion and good judgment.
* Gained a thorough understanding of the situation.
  + Was able to speak with authority and clarity.
* Used the word *we*.
  + Good leaders are servants.
* Gave the people reasons to believe they could be successful.
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* Leave judgment/vengeance to God.
* Mission accomplished.
* He delegated responsibilities.
* Nehemiah recognized the danger and planned for it. Cf. Acts 20:28-31.
* Change when necessary.
* Battles must sometimes be refought.
* Don’t make bad alliances.
* Sin among God’s people truly grieved Nehemiah.
  + Be motivated by concern for righteousness.
* Don’t live in the past, but do learn from history.