

STRONGMEN AND Legacy Makers

Nehemiah (Part 2)...Facing Challenges ...Nehemiah 2

"But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find Him, if you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul." ...Deuteronomy 4:29 (ESV)

Words of Wisdom

"The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve." ~ John Stott

Steps for Making Big Decisions...

1. A Godly Leader Seeks God in Everything...

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:1-4, Proverbs 3:5-8, Deuteronomy 4:29

2. A Godly Leader Takes the Steps that God puts before him...(Even if it's Uncomfortable, or Scary)

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:5-10

- ◆ *Analysis Paralysis...*
- ◆ *Imagine what this task must have looked like to a Cup Bearer!*
- ◆ *Opposition does not always mean you heard wrong!*

3. A Godly Leader Never Steps Ahead of God... (Remains Humble)

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-18, Isaiah 40:31

- ◆ *Nehemiah prayed and waited 4 months before talking to the king...*
- ◆ *Nehemiah prayed and waited 3 days before inspecting the wall...*
- ◆ *Nehemiah waited until he had inspected the condition and heard clearly from the Lord on what to do, before taking action and sharing it with the leaders of the community/others...*

Group Discussion

1. Would you describe Nehemiah as a “StrongMan” or a “Legacy Maker”?

- What is it about him that stands out to you...for the good or the bad?
- Is there anything in his story/life that you relate to?
- What can you learn from his life...whether it's “what to do” or “what not to do”?

2. What kind of decisions or circumstances do you encounter in your life, in your home, in your workplace or community, that you need to step back and seek God before taking the next steps? ...Give Examples

3. READ Isaiah 40:31... This verse is a huge encouragement to “wait on the Lord”, as we read the inspiring words that are the result of “waiting”. But what does it really look like to “Wait on the Lord”?

- How can you know when you hear from the Lord?

4. In Nehemiah 2:11-18... We read how he quietly inspected the condition of the walls and gates (surveying the problem or situation), before taking any action...

How do we avoid “Analysis Paralysis” (never taking a step in fear that the answer is not clear), without getting ahead of what God is doing or waiting to hear from Him?

Prayer

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)