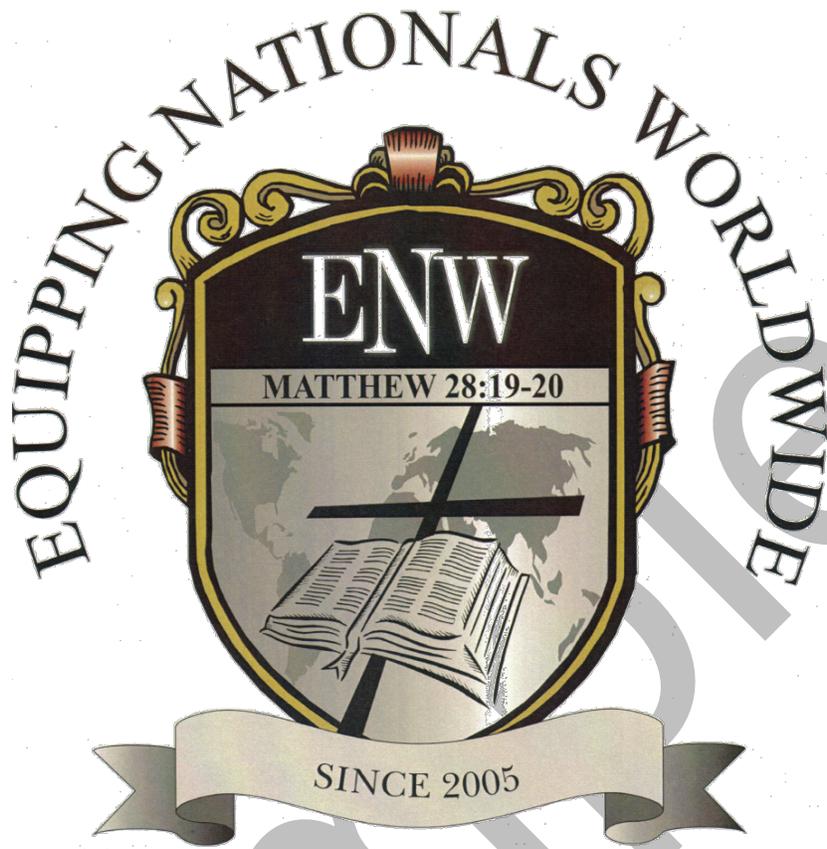


LEADERSHIP

***Equipping God's People to
Think and Live as Godly
Leaders***





THE PROFILE OF A GODLY LEADER

Nehemiah 1 – 13



Title: The Profile of a Godly Leader

Text: Nehemiah 1 – 13

Purpose Statement: I want People (particularly men) to become Godly Leaders by identifying, understanding, embracing and implementing the leadership principles from this book.

Introduction

In light of the specific subject of our conference and of this Old Testament book in general...our working definition of a leader will be: **A leader is anyone who is directly placed by scripture or providentially placed by God in a position with the responsibility to lead (i.e. he says "follow me"), direct (guide, oversee, manage, supervise) or influence (listen to me, watch me, observe my life, imitate my actions, etc.) someone else by word or example toward a goal(s).**

The book of Nehemiah is a story...**HIS STORY** about not only rebuilding a wall but also reestablishing a people. God uses a man...**A LEADER** to do His work. Nehemiah is the one you see. He is the key human actor in this narrative...he is the one we identify with, the one we see as a model of leadership...the one we draw from as *he lives life in the milieu* – in the situation. He is the one *thinking, planning, praying, caring, weeping, resolving, focusing, discerning, persevering, winning...LEADING.*

With all that is going on concerning Nehemiah, it is important to understand...God is still the protagonist and the hero. He is the One working, providentially orchestrating and ultimately reestablishing His people for His glory.

Having said that, I'd like to briefly tell you the story and then from the chapters of the book pull principles that come alive in this narrative and challenge you and me as leaders.

On page 467, the Zondervan Encyclopedic reference Bible says:

Artaxerxes I, whom Nehemiah served as cupbearer, was the son of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), who took Esther to be his queen. The feast of Purim (Esther 9:20-32) was instituted on March 8, 473 B.C., only eight years before Artaxerxes I became king. In the spring of 457 B.C. [16 years after the feast of Purim was instituted], Ezra led an expedition of Jews back to Jerusalem with the blessing of Artaxerxes...one of the by-products of the revival under Era seems to have been an effort on the part of the Jews to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This in turn provoked the wrath of Rehum and Shimshai, who wrote an accusation against

them to Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:7-16). The king commanded the work to cease until a further decree should be issued (Ezra 4:21). Rehum and Shimshai, upon receiving this decree hurried to Jerusalem and “made them to cease by force and power,” breaking down the wall and burning the gates (Ezra 4:23; Nehemiah 1:3). **It was this news of this fresh disaster that shocked Nehemiah and brought him to his knees before God.** [Emphasis mine]

...This is where the book begins...Nehemiah receives this news and is broken with grief. He prays and confesses. He petitions Artaxerxes (the one he served as cupbearer in the palace and who had originally commanded the work to cease and allowed Rehum and Shimshai to destroy what had been accomplished by Ezra) to go back to Jerusalem to address this issue – the **boldness of Nehemiah** to ask the king to reverse what he had decreed only eight years prior and the *providential orchestration of God* is astounding. This fact alone not only draws attention to our character but also amplifies the leadership qualities displayed in his life.

...Nehemiah travels back, surveys the situation by night and immediately faces resistance (laughingly & accusingly questioned regarding *his right* to be there – 2:18...**will you rebel against the king?** Remember only eight years prior the king ordered the work to cease and allowed Rehum & Shimshai to destroy what Ezra had accomplished) by Sanbalat and Tobiah.

...The reconstruction of the wall gets underway. Facing more and more opposition, Nehemiah arms the laborers and they continue building (**one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.** 4:17).

...Interpersonal problems of oppressive debts (4:3-4) accompanied by heavy interest and resulting *slavish bondage* had to be addressed among God’s people. These are some of the real conflicts in the narrative. The point is Nehemiah is a **real, hands-on problem-solving leader.**

...The adversaries continue to plot but the wall is finished (chapter 6). Delegation to have charge over certain responsibilities was made by Nehemiah followed by a census of the returning exiles.

...The book of the law is brought, read and explained followed by the restoration of the feast of tabernacles (chapter 8). People and priests alike confess and repent. Names of the residents of Jerusalem as well as the Priests and Levites who went up with Zerubbabel were compiled.

...The wall is dedicated, the temple offices are restored then Nehemiah institutes his reforms.

Nehemiah presses on – resolved to rebuild, resolved to reestablish, resolved, by direct and influential leadership, to set back in order Jerusalem as a city – her walls for protection, her laws for life and worship and her people to function for the glory of God.

What do we learn from this man that can make us more effective and efficient leaders of our families, churches, SS classes, carrying out our responsibilities as elders and deacons as well as impacting our spheres of influence at school and in our communities & neighborhoods in general?

CHAPTER ONE:

1 - A biblical leader carries the concern of his people with him regardless of where he is...1:2 - and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

Leading is not simple, easy or always smooth. It takes thought, care, focused attention, constant evaluation and analysis. Those you lead depend on it. They expect it...and they should. Those you lead are always “on your heart” as they should be. You can’t escape that. And if you can, you might want to consider doing something else. If doing something else is not an option (i.e. husband, father, etc.), then step up...raise the bar...up your commitment.

You must be considering the ones depending on you all the time...their wellbeing, growth, state of maturity, etc.

I was listening to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas several years ago address a group of high school students. He said, *it is easy to come up with quick, easy answers if you don't bear the weight of responsibility those answers demand.* Carrying for people does not express itself with quick, easy, superficial answers. It's not a mere formula...it is focused passion.

Self-confrontation question: Do you carry the concern of your people with you...wherever you go? In what ways is that concern recognized when you are away from them?

2 - A biblical leader listens with interest and a sympathetic ear...1:3, 4a - 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. And it came to pass when I heard these words that I sat down and wept and mourned...

Self-confrontation question: Does this principle not flow directly out of the last? *If you are concerned...*you listen, period. Are you *too busy* to listen? Are you *too important* to listen? Do you take the time to let your people **say to you?** Do you listen with interest...to your child, wife, church member, employee, friend or extended family

member...those looking to and depending on you? How do you process what they say – with true concern, caring interest, focused priority OR “ok, you had your time to say words to me...now that is over...let’s move on”?

3 - A biblical leader is moved by the expressed needs of his people...1:4b - when I heard these words...

Does this principle not flow directly out of both the first and second? It is one thing to *endure the personal story of a hurting subordinate*...it is quite another to be moved with compassion by their situation, assuming you were interested enough to listen well and truly understand their plight.

Have you ever tried to convince a superior (parent, elder, deacon, employer, etc.) of a difficult situation you’re facing only to conclude by their facial expressions, intermittent sighs, continual eyes on the clock or fidgetiness they really aren’t concerned about what you are saying at all?

Self-confrontation question: Are you truly moved by the expressed needs of those you serve? *Do you truly hear their words*, in the context of their lives – where they live, the struggles they experience, the pressures they are under – *do you really hear? Do you truly want to be part of the solution?*

4 - A biblical leader does not view himself above nor does he disconnect himself from his people but identifies with them...1:6b - which we have sinned against thee: both my father’s house and I have sinned.

Self-confrontation question: Do you identify with those you serve – do you view yourself as a *fellow struggler* or do you view yourself as a little more mature, a little less susceptible, a little more capable, a little more disciplined, therefore you judge yourself to be less in need of patience, sympathy, understanding, and/or the grace of God? You may say, *no, I don’t view myself this way*...but do others perceive you to view yourself this way? In other words, does it seem to them that you are this way? You may say, *I don’t know*. Then ask some who will honestly answer and then listen with humble ears and heart.

CHAPTER TWO:

5 - A biblical leader is constantly praying (for help, wisdom, direction, etc.)...2:4 - ...So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Self-confrontation question: Do you find yourself doing this...not merely as a routine, but because you are convinced you are in desperate need of the resources He alone can provide and what He alone can do? Do you find yourself doing this regularly and intentionally? Is prayer a natural reaction to the various situations of life?

CHAPTER THREE:

6 - A biblical leader plans well, organizes his people and executes his plan...3:1-32 - *Then...*

(Remember, he carries the concern of his people, he listens and considers, he truly hears them, he identifies with them in their life contexts – not above them or disconnected from them – he prays...*then...*) This is not an impulsive, thoughtless thing...there has been process, consideration, weighing out options, etc. *That is what leaders do.*

It is difficult to work for someone who is ill prepared, undisciplined and/or disorganized...he is not prepared and flies by the seat of his pants. Therefore you are kept off balance because he asks things of you initially then changes his mind or forgets what he asks...all the while you are focused, investing time, energy and resources into a project...only to find out later the entire project has been significantly changed or scraped altogether. It is amazing the number of man-hours that are constantly being mismanaged and/or wasted completely because the one in charge can't get or keep his act together. If you're thinking, "that's not me" then ask yourself, *do I really want to know if it is or not?* And if you are willing to find out, ask your subordinates!

Self-confrontation question: Are you the kind of leader who *thinks, plans and organizes*? Do you consider all possible questions and/or potential issues that may arise when you begin a process to set a plan in motion? Or, does your impulsive tendency cause you start and stop...start and change in the middle of things...start, stop and start again? Do you intentionally consider and count the cost personally before launching out and involving others in your disjointed plans? Are you an organized and disciplined person who others can count on to be steady, thoughtful, well planned, etc.? Are you the weakest link in the chain when it comes to organization?

CHAPTER FOUR:

7 - A biblical leader is resilient, he rethinks, flexes and adjusts plans when the circumstances require it...4:15-23

These circumstances may be providential or come as the result of someone's irresponsibility. Some leaders really struggle when things don't go as they thought they should. Some leaders have a difficult time rethinking and adjusting in the middle of a process. Some tend to blame others, resort to verbal intimidation, sarcasm, or plowing ahead without sensitivity to the ones being led.

Self-confrontation question: Are you *flexible*? Do you *readjust* well? Do you accept providential changes with grace...especially how you handle those you are leading, directing & influencing? Do you frustrate easily and spill that onto those looking to you for leadership? Do you cause others to be frustrated because of your lack of flexibility?

CHAPTER FIVE:

8 - A biblical leader is a problem solver (this principle is displayed throughout this entire chapter)...5:1-19

Self-confrontation question: Are you an *engaged* practical problem solver (identifying the problem, evaluating available resources, being selfless rather than selfish, communicating well with those involved in the process – keeping all in the loop, etc.)...Or just good at covering up or blaming others for your failure to be flexible, adjust or stop and rethink? Do you tend to just throw your hands up and quit rather than press on asking for and considering wisdom from others who have walked that road ahead of you? A *problem-solving leader* actually solves the problem...he doesn't merely bark out orders or theoretical solutions.

CHAPTER SIX:

9 - A biblical leader is discerning and refuses to be distracted...6:1-3 - ...come let us meet together...

Self-confrontation question: Are you easily distracted? Do you struggle staying on point? Is your workspace cluttered? Do you set yourself up for distractions? Do you forfeit the important for the immediate squeaky wheel? Do you welcome distractions as a way of getting out of harder, more labor intensive tasks? Do you recognize distractions for what they are – distractions? How do you *identify* a distraction?

One leadership principle you must implement to counteract distractions is...

10 - A biblical leader must prioritize...6:3b - why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you?

As a leader...you do what you do because you are who you are...*a Leader*. One of the sessions ENW does in Unit Four (Foundations for Pastoral Preaching) is *Who you are determines what you do*. It is a session focused on priorities for a pastor/elder...and emphasizes the importance of structuring your life with those priorities in mind. Also, in Unit 5 – *Biblical Goals and Priorities* is taught.

One of the clearest demonstrations of this (other than the text under consideration) is Acts 6. The Apostles/pastors had a God-given priority – **prayer and the ministry of the Word**. They refused to be diverted from that. They clearly understood and lived by their priorities. Leaders must understand this concept and, when necessary, teach their subordinates how important this is.

Self-confrontation question: Do you find it hard to get started, determine what to do first and/or invest your best & freshest time in? Do you do the easiest things when you are the freshest...saving the more difficult, intellectually intensive things for later only to not actually get to them? Do you struggle living by your feelings rather than priorities? Do you truly understand what your priorities are? Do you have subordinates (or a congregation) who need to understand this...for the sake of family, ministry, assembly, unity, productivity, etc.?

Once you begin to function based on priorities and distractions have been clearly identified, one of the ways to avoid being seduced by them again is to...delegate.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

11 - A biblical leader delegates...7:1, 2a - *I gave my brother charge over Jerusalem...*

Delegation is difficult for some who tend to think of themselves as the one who can do it best or the one who micro manages. Find good men, train good men who are capable and delegate things (not just acts but processes) to them with the confident trust and authority to carry them out. It has been said “*don’t do what others can do or be trained to do.*” Now, you can’t give away your God-given priorities (Acts 6) but you can delegate some of the things that God does not require and hold you personally responsible to do. Train others...then delegate to them.

Self-confrontation question: Do the ones under you know you really don’t trust them? Do they conclude this because nothing is ever delegated to them? Do they feel your verbal wrath when they don’t do it *the way* you expected (though your instructions were vague at best...and maybe they failed to get clarity for fear of being accused of not being able to understand simple instructions)?

The following principle must be attached to the last one...

12 - A biblical leader delegates selectively to other qualified, capable leaders...7:2b - *he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.*

Determining whom these men are, wisely selecting and investing your time to develop them is an antidote to dysfunctional delegation. No one, single person can (nor does God expect him to) do it all well...Good leaders delegate to good, prepared men. Fitting the right person to the right responsibility is very important. To do this with confidence, you must know your people.

Self-confrontation question: Do you actually think that you can casually pass off an important responsibility to someone and believe it will be automatically handled well? There may be some you can do this with. But most times you, as the leader, must step up yourself to invest, train, mentor and otherwise show this individual about accepting delegated responsibility...disciple them to be a successful leader. This, in part, is Paul’s admonition to Timothy (II Timothy 2:2).

Whom are you investing in (not occasionally, not whenever he asks for some of your time, etc. but) right now with purposed intention? How are you involved in training people to step up and handle delegated responsibility? In what ways are you preparing men (and women) to do this? Can you think of some people under you who have potential that you need to be investing in? Who have you identified as a potential leader (it doesn’t have to be someone to be *president* – but someone to grow to the next level of leadership. Help him/her be successful in an area of responsibility). With whom will you start and when?

CHAPTER EIGHT:

13 - A biblical leader makes sure God's people understand God's word...8:7, 8, & 12 - and caused the people to understand the law...caused them to understand the reading.

Is there anything more important than this for a leader? Is there any higher priority in ministry – saying what God said so His people (congregation, family, SS class, etc.) can understand it clearly? It is easy to be hard to understand...it is hard to be easy to understand. Ask your people if they understand!

Self-confrontation question: Do you cause your people to understand God's word? Are you confident they do? Do you work hard to be clear, precise and simple? Or, do you tend to shoot from the hip, give in to "at the moment thoughts" never considered before hand to include in the message? Do you tend to get "carried away" in the preaching experience and find yourself not staying on point with clarity, simplicity and practicality? When you instruct/correct your children, do you cause them to understand the biblical truth violated and/or being taught in the milieu (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)? When you "wash your wife with the water of the word" do you do it with grace, patience and clarity, and do you give a strong effort to cause her to understand your point based on scripture?

The next principle is a non-negotiable overflow of this last one...

14 - When the word of God is properly taught, explained and understood by God's people, it can then be accurately and practically applied...8:13-18 - to understand the words of the law...so the people went forth, made them booths, etc. etc.

Self-confrontation question: Do you really make a concerted effort to help your people understand the usefulness of the truths you are teaching? Do you see the congregation maturing because of the direct impact of your public and private ministry of the word? Are they growing in the areas about which you are preaching? Is your public and private ministry of the word characterized by "easy application?" Are you easy to follow in your teaching? Does your public and private ministry of the word make sense? Would you be willing to ask some of your people if this is so? Who will you ask and when will you set up the meeting?

CHAPTER NINE:

Note: The principles in chapter 9 (and actually through 10 & 11 and into chapter 12) clearly display the direct result of God's people being impacted by God's word ministered

properly in chapter 8! This is a powerful challenge and crucial call to God's leaders who minister God's truth to God's people...work for clarity, accuracy, simplicity, practicality and applicability.

15 - God's people humble themselves...9:1

16 - God's people separate themselves...9:2a

17 - God's people confess their sins...9:2b, 3

18 - God's people worship God...9:3-6

19 - God's people rehearse the goodness of God...9:7ff

20 - God's people acknowledge the character and attributes of God...9:7ff

Our God is...

...Sovereign - v.7ff "You, You, You..."

...Faithful - v.8...Abraham was found faithful but God is the faithful One Who kept His word to Abraham

...Powerful - vv.9 - 12

...Holy - vv.13, 14

...Provider - vv.15, 20, 21

...Gracious & Merciful - vv.17 - 19, 27, 28, 31

...Patient - v.30

...Awesome - v.32

...Just - v.33

Again, we know these things should be true of God's people (your staff, children, congregation, spouse, etc.). We know they should acknowledge and live in light of these attributes of God. But the point is: *they did this as a direct result of God's leader causing them to understand God's word.*

Self-confrontation question: Do you find these things displayed in the lives of your people as a result of your public and private ministry of the word? Do your people know their God like this because *you cause them to* by your consistent, clear & careful handling of God's word? Hannah did; Mary did; Joseph did.

CHAPTER TEN:

21 - God's people structure and discipline themselves according to the word of God...10:32ff - Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly...

Again, this is yet another display of biblical application. When God's leaders minister God's word properly to God's people, they should expect to observe the practical impact for change in thought and function. This is God's pattern for growth and development – God's truth ministered by God's leaders to God's people. The simple point is there will be a complementation or correlation between your effort to study and present truth and the application of it in the lives of your people.

Self-confrontation question: Is God pleased with the level of intensity and urgency with which you go about helping His people understand and apply His word to their lives? How do you know? Do you “*labor in the word and doctrine*” (1 Timothy 5:17)? Upon what basis do you consider, evaluate and answer this question? When it is done properly, God's people display it in their lives.

CHAPTER TWELVE:

22 – God's people celebrate with praise and worship to God when cooperate goals are met...12:27-43 – at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem...

These goals are the result of God's word being reestablished as the objective rule for life. Remember, Nehemiah came to Jerusalem to restructure the city, rebuild the walls and reestablish God's word for life.

Self-confrontation question: Do God's people rejoice when others grow and/or are rescued from sin? Is there joy when God's truths are understood and practiced, when marriages are maintained with integrity, when youth are committed to Christ, when God's people humbly acknowledge Him as their Lord & King, etc.? These are all goals to strive for and in which to rejoice when met. Are God's people celebrating with praise and worship because biblical goals are being pursued...they are clearly biblical...do the people clearly see them reached...and they are uninhibited in their celebratory reaction?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

23 – A biblical leader deeply desires and aggressively strives to be approved of God...13:14, 22, 29, 31 – Remember me, O my God, concerning this...

The ultimate desire of a godly leader is not to make a name for himself. It is not to be the “king of an earthly empire.” It is not to attract attention to self. It is not to make himself great. It is to be approved of God...Paul told Timothy – *endeavor to show yourself approved by God.*

Self-confrontation question: How does a leader do that? He does that by being a biblical leader...a humble, *God-confident* servant leader!

Conclusion

REMEMBER: A leader is anyone who is directly placed by scripture or providentially placed by God in a position with the responsibility **to lead** (i.e. he says "follow me"), **direct** (guide, oversee, supervise or manage,) or **influence** (listen to me, watch me, pay close attention, observe my life, imitate my actions, etc.) someone else by word or example toward a goal(s).

The goal is to become a more effective, efficient leader by embracing and emulating principles of true biblical leaders. This book is full of those principles.

Self-confrontation question: How do you measure up? Which leadership principle do you need most? When will you begin the work to apply?

Sample

Leadership Principles from Nehemiah

Following is a list of Leadership Principles extracted from this rich little book. This list is in addition to (as well as inclusive of) the ones discussed in detail in the conference.

NOTE: All of these principles can and possibly should be worded as follows...*you, as a biblical leader, should/must/will carry the concerns of your people with you regardless of where you may be. Or, even more to the point you must constantly be concerned for your people.* Obviously these principles can be crafted in a variety of ways to communicate the truth explicit in the text (and that is *the point*)...but maybe should be structured in the most pointed way for punch and impact.

NOTE: Consider developing the remaining principles not discussed in the training conference to use as you develop leaders, equip present leaders, call on others to step up to the challenge to be *this kind of leader*.

NOTE: Nearly all of these principles begin with *A biblical leader*... because that is *who* Nehemiah is...and *how* he functions in that roll throughout the book.

NOTE: As a follow-up to the training: It might be wise to consider creating a work booklet or ministry project for the attendees to use so they can continue to focus on leadership from Nehemiah. It could be designed for personal bible study. It could be further discussed at a focused leadership conference or informal men's meeting. It could be used in men's accountability groups.

NOTE: A sermon series or bible study series could be developed from these principles. Messages could be developed from preaching portions in the narrative using many of the principles as main points.

NOTE: Some of the principles look familiar and are worded similarly. The fact of the matter is, they may identify the same basic leadership quality but are pulled from a different *narrative context* involving a different set of circumstances faced by the leader. Leadership is not a formula that is robotically produced on cue...it is the *built*

in character of the leader. It is the acquired, embraced, necessary & particularized wisdom displayed in a timely and appropriate manner based on the nature of the circumstance.

CHAPTER ONE

1 - A biblical leader carries the concern of his people with him regardless of where he is...v. 2

2 - A biblical leader initiates conversation and inquires about the needs of his people...v.2

3 - A biblical leader listens with interest and a sympathetic ear...vv. 3, 4a

4 - A biblical leader is moved by the expressed needs of his people...v.4b

5 - A biblical leader intercedes for his people...v. 5

6 - A biblical leader acknowledges God as the One to whom he must go and the only One Who can truly help...v. 5

7 - A biblical leader prays for his people with focused passion...vv. 6a, 11

8 - A biblical leader does not view himself above nor does he disconnect himself from but identifies with his people...v.6b

9 - A biblical leader is transparent & humble before God and willingly confesses his sin to God...vv. 6c, 7

10 - A biblical leader prays biblically for his people...vv. 8-11b

11 - A biblical leader acknowledges God's providential orchestration in the affairs of men and prays accordingly (a biblical leader does not rely on his manipulative skills to get him positioned where he wants to be)...v. 11b

CHAPTER TWO

12 - A biblical leader, having prayed specifically, is alert to, recognizes, evaluates and properly responds with courage when providential circumstances are opened before him...vv. 1-3

13 - A biblical leader is constantly praying (for help, wisdom, direction, etc.)...v. 4

14 - A biblical leader communicates respectfully...v. 5

15 - A biblical leader thinks, plans & prepares preliminarily so as to be ready when the opportunity comes...vv. 6-8a

16 - A biblical leader readily and humbly acknowledges God's good hand in his life...v. 8b

17 - A biblical leader knows everyone will not be happy with decisions made...that cannot dissuade him...vv. 9-10

18 - A biblical leader does due diligence (i.e. gathers necessary information, observes the circumstances, etc.) before beginning a project...vv. 11-18

19 - A biblical leader will face ridicule and false accusations but must remain resolute...v. 19 (4:1-3)

20 - A biblical leader remains confident in his God, and therefore, maintains a committed focus to the project (example of alternate wording: a biblical leader *is confident and determined*, or you must be *confident and determined*)...v.20a

21 - A biblical leader is motivated by knowing God will honor obedience...v.20b

CHAPTER THREE

22 - A biblical leader plans well, organizes his people and executes his plan...vv. 1-32

CHAPTER FOUR

23 - A biblical leader, at times, will face ridicule, criticism and lying insinuations - providentially orchestrated and wisely timed by God, *but it so happened*...v.1a

24 - A biblical leader goes to God knowing it is He Who is ultimately being vilified (this is God's work...not the leader's, so he can appeal to God based on that principle)...vv.4, 5

25 - A biblical leader works hard (i.e. he perseveres) to complete the task...v.6

26 - A biblical leader responds to threats two ways...prayer and preparation (he displays the dual and cooperative effort - it is not either/or...it is both/and)...vv.7-9

27 - A biblical leader considers the discouragement factor, prepares and motivates people...vv.10-14

28 - A biblical leader is resilient; he rethinks and adjusts plans when the circumstances require it...vv.15-23

CHAPTER FIVE

29 - A biblical leader is a problem solver (this principle is displayed throughout this entire chapter)...vv.1-19

30 - A biblical leader expresses anger appropriately...v.6

31 - A biblical leader considers seriously before moving forward...v.7a

32 - A biblical leader is courageous to confront...vv.7b-10

33 - A biblical leader instructs, and insists on proper restitution (i.e. the process of setting things right again)...vv.11-13

34 - A biblical leader protects and does not take advantage of his people...vv.14-16

35 - A biblical leader provides for the needs of his people...vv.17-18

36 - A biblical leader seeks God's blessing on his work...v.19a

37 - A biblical leader is a servant to others...v.19b

CHAPTER SIX

38 - A biblical leader is discerning and refuses to be distracted...vv.1-3

39 - A biblical leader must prioritize...v.3b

40 - A biblical leader stays resolute...vv.4-7

41 - A biblical leader is confident as he moves forward, therefore he will not be manipulated into second guessing himself...v.8

42 - A biblical leader is confident, resolute and focused yet humbly dependent...v.8, 9

43 - A biblical leader will continually face and must continually resist a variety of distractions...vv.10-19

44 - A biblical leader fears the Lord, not man...vv.10-13

45 - A biblical leader prays and trusts God to “handle” his enemies...v.14

46 - A biblical leader fully and happily acknowledges God as the providential “doer” behind his work...vv.15, 16

CHAPTER 7

47 - A biblical leader delegates...vv.1, 2a

48 - A biblical leader delegates selectively to other qualified, capable leaders...v.2b

49 - A biblical leader organizes...v.5ff

CHAPTER 8

Note: It is clear from this point on in the book the word of God is brought back to the place it needs to be. The absence of it is obviously the reason things got where they were. So, the word once again is established as the standard and final authority for the belief and practice of God’s people.

50 - A biblical leader recognizes and yields to the priority and authority of the Word...vv.1-3

51 - God's people attend to God's word with respect...v.3a, 6

52 - A biblical leader makes sure God's people understand God's word...vv.7, 8, 12

53 - When the word of God is properly taught, explained and understood by God's people, it brings joy and strength to heavy hearts...vv.9-12

54 - When the word of God is properly taught, explained and understood by God's people, it can be accurately and practically applied...vv.13-18

CHAPTER 9

Note: The principles in chapter 9 (and actually through 10 & 11 and into chapter 12) clearly display the direct result of God's people being impacted by God's word ministered properly in chapter 8! This is a powerful challenge and crucial call to God's leaders who minister God's truth to God's people...*work for clarity, accuracy, simplicity, practicality and applicability.*

55 - God's people humble themselves...v.1

56 - God's people separate themselves...v.2a

57 - God's people confess their sins...v.2b, 3

58 - God's people worship God...v.3-6

59 - God's people rehearse the goodness of God...vv.7ff

60 - God's people acknowledge the character and attributes of God...vv.7ff

God is...

...Sovereign - v.7ff "You, You, You..."

...Faithful - v.8

...Powerful - vv.9 - 12

...Holy - vv.13, 14

...Provider - vv.15, 20, 21

...Gracious & Merciful - vv.17 - 19, 27, 28, 31

...Patient - v.30

...Awesome - v.32

...Just - v.33

61 - God's people are transparent before God...vv.32 - 37

CHAPTER 10

62 - God's people commit to God...9:38 - 10:31

63 - God's people structure and discipline themselves according to the word of God...vv.32ff

CHAPTER 11

Essentially this chapter chronicles the people and records details of the newly organized city structure.

CHAPTER 12

The first 26 verses are an extension of chapter 11.

64 - God's people celebrate with praise and worship to God when cooperate goals are met...vv.27-43

Verses 44 - 47 continue the details of responsibilities of various offices.

CHAPTER 13

65 - The word of God is the standard (the chapter unfolds and displays a leader's commitment to this principle)...v.1a

66 - A biblical leader confronts sin in a way commensurate with the nature of the sin...vv.4 - 9

67 - A biblical leader contends/confronts...vv.11, 17, 25

68 - A biblical leader is passionate for the biblical practice (based on God's word, v.1a) of God's people...vv.10ff

69 - A biblical leader deeply desires and aggressively strives to be approved of God...vv.14, 22, 29, 31