

Be blessed and may you be the leader God has called you to be!

Love y'all,

Pastor

Part 19 - Feel the Passion!

Texts:

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (The Message) - "Seize life!"

Hebrews 4:14-16 (KJV) - "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. [15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Nehemiah 4:6 (NKJV) - "So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."

Key No. 12 (Part 5) – Incredible Keys to Incredible Breakthroughs!

A. The Key of EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP.

1. We have been teaching about Nehemiah making his mark in life by providing great leadership at a time when it was desperately needed. We, too, are all leaders in one way or another.

2. From the Book of Nehemiah we have uncovered seven tremendous leadership principles:

- a. He made himself available.
- b. He saw opportunity where others saw problems.
- c. He had vision and inspired others to follow it.
- d. He built and motivated a team.
- e. He stayed focused and kept the main thing the *main thing*.
- f. He refused to allow problems to discourage him.
- g. He didn't give in to his insecurities.

B. It's important to recognize what is working in your life and what is not. Each time you look into God's Word, allow it to speak to you.

1. Unfortunately, many people never recognize what He is trying to say.
2. **Joke:** The Compact Mirror

Don't be like the two guys walking down the street who spotted a compact on the sidewalk. As one of them bent down to pick it up, he opened it, looked in the mirror and said to his friend, "Humm, . . . this person looks familiar."

The second fellow replied, "Here, let me see!" When he looked in the mirror, he said, "You dummy, that's me!"

C. **Leadership Principle No. 8:** Nehemiah took his problems to God . . . not to people.

1. **Nehemiah 4:4-5 (NKJV)** - "Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! [5] Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders."
2. **Job 14:1 (NKJV)** - ""Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble."

3. **John 16:33 (NKJV)** - "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
4. Tribulation could be defined as *stress* or *pressure*. Have you ever felt financial stress? . . . marital stress? . . . stress from a rebellious son or daughter? . . . a terrifying physical condition?
 - a. Jesus said we should be cheerful even when the pressure and problems of life seem to overwhelm us.
 - b. God wants us to turn to Him for help and become dependent upon Him when things go wrong.
5. I love the old hymn we used to sing, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Practice leaning on His strong, everlasting arms.

D. David learned to take his problems to God.

1. **1 Samuel 30:6 (NKJV)** - "Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."
 - a. These were the same people David had mentored when they were dead-beats, social misfits, and running from the authorities. These men really did love their leader.
 - b. Of course, David was not responsible for their problems, but their emotions were running wild. All they could think of was losing their wives and daughters and wondering what may be happening to them that very moment.
2. When you're battling some tough situations, the first thing to remember is that in this world, you're sure to experience trouble. The next thing to do is to remove your emotions from the situation. Set them aside and then deal with what remains. If you fail to remove those strong emotions, like

David's men, you may hurt those you love most—even though they were not responsible for the problem.

3. As a leader, you will be blamed for many things that you had nothing to do with. Don't let it get to you. That's part of the price for being a leader God has chosen to use. Just do it for God—and not for men.
4. Third, remember that some problems are beyond the scope of men. Only God can fix them. Had David announced a pity party, no one would have come. But what he *did* do was encourage himself in the Lord!
5. There's an old song we used to sing, "Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear; all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer."
6. Notice that instead of seeking revenge for himself, Nehemiah turned his problems over to God. Do you know the best thing you can do for an enemy? Place them in the hands of God . . . and leave them there!
7. Remember the words God spoke to Jehoshaphat in **2 Chronicles 20:15 (NKJV)**: "The battle is not yours, but God's." I've learned that when I am so determined to fight my own battles, God politely backs away and says, "Go ahead. Show me what you can do." But if I leave it with Him, He'll fight *for* me.

E. Leadership Principle No. 9: Nehemiah didn't give in to fear.

1. **Nehemiah 4:7-9 (NKJV)** - "Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, [8] and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. [9] Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night."
2. Fear immobilizes and paralyzes many people. Like a deer caught in the glare of bright headlights, they freeze!

3. If you haven't been there yet, I promise that the day will come when you won't know what to do. Your problems will be so huge and overwhelming, your options will be few and far between. And you can be certain that the enemy will vividly detail some terrible outcome. But don't listen to him!
4. When you feel helpless and weak, this is what you must do. Even though you've made mistakes and the problem you're facing is not your fault, keep believing that God is on your side.
5. My favorite cartoon is "Calvin and Hobbes," by Bill Waterman. The cover of one of his books pictures a tree outside his home, but the shadow it casts through the window makes it look like a monster. I can relate with that cartoon because that same tree stood outside my window when I was a kid. And the same monster showed up many nights when I was only a few years old. One of Waterman's books is, *Something Under My Bed is Drooling*. Fear can certainly keep you awake at night!
- 6.. **Joke:** A guy couldn't sleep because of an irrational fear that something was hiding under his bed, just waiting for him to go to sleep so it could come out and attack him. After months of trembling hands, loss of weight, and dark circles under his eyes from lack of sleep, he decided to explain his problem to a psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist assured, "I can help you with that, but it won't be easy. You must see me every week for the next three years at \$150 a session. But you will come through this."

The psychiatrist didn't see him again until they happened to meet in the aisle of a grocery store. Surprisingly, the former patient was smiling, the dark circles were gone, he had obviously gained weight and looked healthy and strong.

"Aren't you the man you came to me about your fears and lack of sleep?"

Quickly the man replied, "Yes, I am—but I'm much better now!"

The psychiatrist asked, "Well, how did you get over your phobia?"

"Well," the man replied, "you told me it would cost \$150 a week for the next three years. When I told a friend, he said he could fix it for \$20."

The psychiatrist said, "That's amazing! How did he do it?"

The man answered, "I paid him \$20 to cut the legs off my bed. That did it! Nothing thicker than a pancake can get under my bed now!"

7. If you'll keep believing that God loves you, everything will be okay.
Remember: He is the author and finisher of our faith. Even when it seems that our story is finished, He always has another chapter to write. If you'll trust Him, God will see that everything ends well.
8. Don't panic or give in to fear. Just keep believing.
9. After the terrible thing that has just happened, you may wonder how you could possibly survive or ever be happy again. Believe me . . . you will survive and thrive. And yes, you will laugh again. Things may seem dark and hopeless now, but as Hemingway said, "the sun will always rise!"