

Love you guys! Let's get unstuck!

Pastor

## **Part 22: - 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."

## **Key No. 12 (Part 8) – Incredible Keys to Incredible Breakthroughs**

### **A. The Key of EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP**

1. We have been studying incredible leadership lessons from the life of Nehemiah. By providing extraordinary leadership at a time when Israel needed it most, he moved God to act on behalf of himself and the nation.
2. So, how can we move God to become involved in our lives? While the centurion exercised extraordinary faith, Rachel moved God with extraordinary desire, Rebecca with extraordinary service, and Nehemiah with extraordinary leadership.

**B. Never has our world needed great leadership more than the present time.**

1. From corporate boardrooms to Congress, to Wall Street and local communities, our nation is in need of distinguished leadership right now.
2. All of us are leaders, whether we realize it or not. Just as Nehemiah was forced to lead his people, unexpected crises and challenges are sure to come to us all. How you lead in those times will determine whether your family or ministry will recover or survive.
3. The crisis you face may involve finances. How well you lead will determine whether you have God's favor, blessings, and prosperity.
4. Should you panic or simply ignore the crisis and refuse to pay the price for success, the problem could not only grow worse, but become disastrous.

**C. Leadership Principle No. 12** – Nehemiah elevated the lives of his people.

1. Most people desire to be blessed and elevated to a higher level. Those who are poor want sufficient finances to pay their bills and provide for their families. The lonely want to be cared for; most sick people want to be well and strong. I say "most," because not everyone wants to change.
2. In John, chapter 5, Jesus had to ask the man at the pool, "Wilt thou be made whole?" Or, "Do you want to be healed?"
3. **Joke:** Disability Check

On a very cloudy day, Quibodeaux, Thibodeaux and Boudreaux were sitting in a boat fishing. After a good while, the sky suddenly opened just above them and a ray of intense light shined directly upon the front of the boat. At first, it spooked them and made them nervous.

All of a sudden, they heard a voice from up above: "This is the Lord!" They all looked at one another and then began to plead, "I didn't do nothing, I didn't do nothing, I didn't do nothing."

Immediately the Lord answered, "Don't get nervous. I'm not here to pass judgment on you. I only want to grant each of you one healing wish."

As they began to calm down, Quibodeaux was the first to stand in the boat. "As You already know, Lord, I've been having this crick in the back of my neck for the past ten years, and if You were to grant me a healing wish, that would be it."

With a wave of His hand, Quibodeaux started moving his neck freely.

"Mais, that feels good. Thank You, Lord, thank You," and he sat down.

Thibodeaux stood next. "You know, Lord, that bum leg I've been having for the past fifteen years. You know how bad it hurts, and if You were to grant me one wish, that would be it."

Again, the Lord waved His hand and Thibodeaux immediately felt the pain leave his leg. "Oh, thank You Lord, oh thank You, thank You."

Before Thibodeaux could be seated, they heard a big splash behind the boat. Both Quibodeaux and Thibodeaux looked behind themselves and see Boudreaux swimming away from the boat as fast as he could.

Thibodeaux shouted, "Boudreaux, where you going? The Lord is not here to pass judgment on you, he's here to grant you a healing wish. You know that bad back of yours, He can heal it for you, right here and now."

Boudreaux hollered back, not missing a swim stroke, "No, no, sha! I don't want the Lord to heal me. I'll lose my disability check."

4. After addressing the immediate security issues, the wall around Jerusalem was nearing completion. Now it was time to examine their quality of life and the struggle to merely exist.

- a. **Nehemiah 5:1-7 (NKJV)** - "And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. [2] For there were those who said, "We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live." [3] There were also some who said, "We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine." [4] There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards. [5] Yet now

our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards." [6] And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. [7] After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers."

5. (See Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Human Needs").
6. When Nehemiah realized the plight of his people and their social concerns, he became angry and determined to do something about them.
  - a. The people had become so trapped by debilitating, suffocating debt, they could not possibly recover. Meanwhile, those at the top grew richer and richer from exploiting the people.
  - b. Their governmental structure was so terribly flawed, they had become stuck! Has your marriage ever been stuck? Your career . . . your ministry . . . just stuck and not going anywhere?
7. One thing Christ came to do, which has also become the mission of the church, is to elevate the lives of His followers.
  - a. **John 10:10 (NKJV)** - "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
  - b. **Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV)** - "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), [6] and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."
8. God wants to elevate us in every area of our lives. One of the most important things you will ever learn is that Jesus came to restore all that the first Adam had lost. To restore man's relationship with God was foremost in Jesus' mission, but He wants to do so much more!

- a. **1 John 3:8 (NKJV)** - "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."
9. If man "fell" in the garden, that indicates that he left an elevated place and plunged to a lower state of existence.
  - a. Man lost his relationship with God, but as I've often said, he lost many other things as well.
  - b. He lost the image of God's glory he was created to manifest; he lost divine authority, continual harvest, prosperity, divine health, the right to function with unlimited resources, the peace of God, and the divine insight he was meant to possess.
  - c. **Acts 3:21 (NKJV)** - "Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of ALL things,"
  - d. All (Greek) includes "all" forms of declension or loss; everything. Adam did not lose *some* things, he lost all things!
10. Because elevation is Christ's primary mission, the same is true for the church. We must seek to elevate others—our children, employees, students, friends, and those we pastor. Our goal should always be to improve the quality of life for those we lead.
11. It is the responsibility of the church and its leadership to always point believers toward the fullness of restoration—not just salvation alone or going to heaven when we die. And since that is our mission, we must also proclaim what is just and right and fight against every form of injustice.
12. Not all churches and ministries do this. Most churches are silent about any issue that doesn't involve salvation.
  - a. Many churches and ministries even use people, demean them, diminish their status or at best, allow them to remain the same.
  - b. A true, authentic church or ministry is not only responsible to proclaim salvation, but to elevate lives in every way possible.

- c. We must never teach people how to be saved—and then leave them where they are. Our responsibility is to challenge, inspire, and motivate them to move to the next level.
13. As a result of being connected with Jacob, Laban began to recognize how abundantly God had blessed him.
- a. When Jacob first appeared at Laban's doorstep, he didn't realize that this young man was carrying some heavy 'juice.' All that God had promised to Abraham had been passed to Isaac and then to Jacob.
  - b. From the very beginning, Laban tried to take advantage of Jacob. First, he swapped Leah for Rachel and then changed Jacob's wages ten times. Finally, Jacob had enough and decided to return to Bethel and then to his ancestral home.
  - c. **Genesis 30:27 (NKJV)** - "Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake."
  - d. This is why affiliation with a strong church is so important. Laban pleaded with Jacob to stay, because he didn't want to lose that strong tie to the anointing.
  - e. That's what the world should be saying to the church, "Please, stay!" Being united with someone who is anointed will help facilitate your elevation.
14. When you connect with an anointed person, an impartation of their anointing will flow to you.
15. **2 Samuel 6:11-12 (NKJV)** - "The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. [12] Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness."

- a. Some Bible dictionaries state that Obed-Edom was not Jewish by birth. He was actually a Philistine who became a Levite, and then a door-keeper and worship leader in the House of God. His lineage was through Esau's marriage with Canaanite women who were probably Philistines. His descendants were the Edomites.
  - b. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: "OBED-EDOM - in 2 Samuel 6:10-12 and 1 Chronicles 13:13-14; a Philistine of Gath and servant of David, who received the Ark of Yahweh into his house when David brought it into Jerusalem from Kiriath-jearim."
  - c. Apparently, Obed-Edom was so blessed by associating with God's presence residing in the Ark of the Covenant, he converted to Judaism.
  - d. When David learned of God's blessing upon Obed-Edom and his family, he was ready to retrieve the Ark. But Obed-Edom said, "I'm going with it. I can't live without His presence!"
  - e. Obed-Edom reminds me of what I told my wife Geri years ago: "If you ever leave me, I'm going with you!"
  - f. Since he had sheltered the Ark in a period when it had become a terror to Israel, Obed-Edom was allowed to continue ministering to God after the Ark was situated in a new location.
  - g. Obed-Edom moved into a relationship in which he should never have participated. This was true elevation!
16. This message is for those who have become stuck....stuck in a relationship, in their finances, career, or ministry.
- a. Today, God wants to remove you from that rut.
  - b. Have you ever been literally stuck, . . . I mean "up to the axle" kind of stuck? God wants to pull you out—today!