**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Topic: The Making of a Leader ... Learning from Nehemiah (part 2)
Trainer: Pastor Bill Vasilakis
Date: June 1st 2017**

**When you think of Nehemiah 4 key words come to mind:**

**Worship ... Work ... Word ... Warfare**

1. **WORSHIP**
* **Nehemiah 1:4**

*“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.”*

* **Nehemiah 2:4**

*“The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven ...”*

1. **WORK**
* **Nehemiah 6:3**

*“I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”*

1. **WARFARE**
* **Chapter 2:10**

*“When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.”*

**What kind of opposition can we expect from our common enemy when we are moving forward to actually accomplishing God’s will?**

**Attack 1 – Condemnation and Discouragement**

* **Chapter 2:19-20**

*“But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” 20I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”*

* **Chapter 4:1-3**

*When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” 3Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, ‘What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their walls of stones!”*

**Attack 2 – Fear and Insecurity**

* **Chapter 4:6-18**

*“So we rebuild the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. 7But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. 9But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. 10Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the labourers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” 11Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.” 12Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.” 13Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. 14After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” 15Whenour enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. 16From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, 18and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.”*

**Attack 3 – Distraction**

* **Chapter 6:2-3**

*“Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.” But they were scheming to harm me; 3so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”*

**Attack 4 – Compromise**

* **Chapter 6:10-13**

*One day I went to the house of Shemaiah some of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, “Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you.” 11But I said, “Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!” 12I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. 13He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.”*

1. **WORD**
* **Nehemiah 8:5-6**

*“Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.”*

* **Chapter 9:3**

*“They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.”*

**BECOMING A BONDSLAVE SERVANT LEADER ... The “of self”**

**Nehemiah Chapter 5**

* **THE PROBLEM** verses 1-5

*“Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. 2Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” 3Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.” 4Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.” 5Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”*

* **THE RESOLUTION** verses 6-13

*“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them 8and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.9So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? 10I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! 11Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.” 12”We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. 13I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.*

* **THE POWER OF A GREAT TESTIMONY** verses 14-18

*“Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year – twelve years – neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. 15But the earlier governors – those preceding me, placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16Instead I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.*

1. **AN EXAMPLE IN ALL THINGS**

**verses 14-15a:** *“Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year – twelve years – neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. But the earlier governors – those preceding me, placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine.”*

1. **GENTLE WITH THE PEOPLE**

**verse 15b:** *“Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for god I did not act like that.”*

1. **PRE-OCCUPIED WITH SERVING**

**verse 16:** *“Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.”*

1. **GENEROUS, GIVING, HOSPITABLE**

**verses 17:18:** *“Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.”*