

Nehemiah – Leadership Principles

Lesson 5 – Success comes from God

Leader Notes

Read or have someone read the paragraph below.

Nehemiah learned that success comes from God. The following verses teach us how God brings success in our leadership.

1. 2:8 – As a Christian how would we attribute the success in this verse to God?

Nehemiah’s plans were well-laid, but when he succeeded, he attributed his success to the hand of God which was upon him.

2. 2:18 – How did Nehemiah telling this faith story motivate his followers?

By the reaction of the Judean leaders, we can see that Nehemiah’s Gospel encouragement persuaded the leaders. It also motivated them to encourage one another “for the good work” of acting upon the constructive opportunity that God had set before them.

3. 2:20 – How does Nehemiah use this to witness?

Although Nehemiah could have appealed to Artaxerxes’ for permission for him to rebuild the wall (2:5-8), he did not. Instead he appealed to God. The work, as Nehemiah had implied to his Judeans, was not primarily a political act, but a religious one. That is why it would be the servants of “the God of heaven,” the Judeans alone, who would rebuild the wall. Pagans had ‘no portion or right or (religious) heritage’ in Jerusalem. Similarly, the NT mandates that the body of Christ should exercise church discipline, including excommunication of the impenitent (1 Cor. 5; cf. 1 Cor. 19:6-22; 11:27-32), and in the end time vision the New Jerusalem. Idolaters and immoral people are excluded from the holy city (Rev. 21:7-8, 27; 22:14-15).

4. 4:15 – What is the result when the Judeans realize the success that had come from God?

They returned to their work.

5. 6:15-16 – List the number of successes that come from God’s grace.

The walls that lay in ruins for nearly a century and a half were rebuilt in less than two months once the people were galvanized into action by Nehemiah’s leadership. (15)

Enemies became afraid and lost their confidence. (16)

6. Recall a faith story of your own that illustrated the success that God gave you in your life.

Thank those who share.