

Nehemiah – Leadership Principles

Lesson 7 – Power of the Word

Class Study

God's Word is powerful. The Scriptures no less attest to that. The following are but a few examples:

- Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- Isaiah 55:11: so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
- Matthew 24:35: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

No true Christian leader can afford to ignore this powerful resource. Nehemiah took full advantage of God's Word. Chapters 8, 9 and 10 give evidence how the Word worked during Nehemiah's leadership.

1. 8:1-18

- a. 8:1 – What do you think led the people to ask Ezra to read the :Book of the Law of Moses?

- b. 8:2-8 – What are some things that strike you in these verses?

- c. 8:9-12 – What do you think this is all about?

- d. 8:13-18 – What do these verses prove about being in the Word?

2. 9:1-38

The twenty-fourth day – Oct. 30, 445 B.C. was a day of penance in the spirit of the Day of Atonement, which was held on the tenth day (Lev 16:29–30). This was two days after the Feast of Booths had concluded, the people were again assembled, this time for a day of repentance. Already at the first convocation, “the people wept as they heard the words of the Law” (8:9). Continued reading (8:18) made them even more aware of “their sins and iniquities of their fathers” (9:2).

- a. 9:1-3 – What are some of the elements of confession in these verses?

- b. 9:4-37 – These verses are the prayer of the Levites. What are some teaching points in this prayer?

- c. 9:38 – What does the power of the Word lead to in this verse?
- 3. 10:28-39
 - a. What are some specific promises that are made in these verses?
 - b. What might some applications be for our own life?
- 4. Lesson 3 item 7 probed the idea of personal growth in the Scriptures. Much of that could be thought of personal devotional time. There two other major areas of spiritual growth such as Divine Worship and Group Bible Study. When many people participate in these two activities there isn't much further activity after they are over. What are some more in-depth benefits can we get from both of these?