

Nehemiah – Leadership Principles

Lesson 8 – Staying the Course

Class Study

Luther says “that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” (Significance of Baptism) Luther knew that the Old Adam of sin comes back again and again to bring setbacks in our Christian life. This will never end on this side of heaven.

Leadership involves making constant adjustments and improvements. It involves sometimes going over what seemed to be set in place. New problems also come up that need to be addressed. Leadership is never without problems. That was certainly true for Nehemiah. Nehemiah returned to Babylon after events in chapter 12. There appears to be an interval of about fifteen years between chapters 12 and 13.

1. 13:1-3
 - a. What was it about the Ammonites and Moabites that caused such a strong prohibition?
 - b. Was their being banned a forever thing?
 - c. Who was Balaam and how did he fit into this situation?

2. 13:4-14
 - a. What was the problem here?
 - b. How long had it lingered?
 - c. What did Nehemiah do about it?

3. 13:15-22
 - a. What was the problem here?
 - b. What was the underlying motivation that caused the problem?
 - c. What did Nehemiah do about it?

4. 13:23-28
 - a. What is the problem here?
 - b. Where has this problem showed up before?
 - c. What did Nehemiah do about it?
 - d. How did he insure that it would not crop up again?

5. 13:30-31
 - a. What are some last steps Nehemiah took to establish a solid Christian community and country?
 - b. How might these lead to a stable environment?

6. In, summary, list the various learnings you have learned in this lesson?