



LEAD THE WAY

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH



Leaders are best when
we _____



Leaders are best when we...

“...put others first.” Julie, CEO

“...don't get an unfair share of returns.”
Josef, Business Advisor

“...become true and honest servant
leaders.” Dan, Chief Supply Chain Officer

“...are transparent and real.” Mark, CEO

“...help others reach their full God-given
potential.” Jason, Founder and President



Leaders are best when
we are most like Christ



Nehemiah 5



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Leaders are best when
we see, hear, and care
for all of the people



Nehemiah 5:1-5

About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. They were saying, “We have such large families. We need more food to survive.” Others said, “We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine.” And others said, “We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes...”



Nehemiah 5:1-5

“...We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others.”



Nehemiah 5:6

When I heard their complaints, I
was very angry.



Leaders are best when
we see, hear, and care
for all of the people



Nehemiah 5:6-7a

When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. After thinking it over...



Nehemiah 5:7-12

After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, “You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!” Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem.



Nehemiah 5:7-12

At the meeting I said to them, “We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but you are selling them back into slavery again. How often must we redeem them?” And they had nothing to say in their defense.



Nehemiah 5:7-12

Then I pressed further, “What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations? I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.



Nehemiah 5:7-12

You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.”



Nehemiah 5:7-12

They replied, “We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say.” Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised.



Nehemiah 5:13

I shook out the folds of my robe and said, “If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!”

The whole assembly responded, “Amen,” and they praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.



Matthew 23:13

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”



Leaders are best when
we lead in the context
of eternity



CS Lewis - The Weight of Glory

It is a serious thing to *lead* in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting *person you have on your team* may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.



CS Lewis - The Weight of Glory

Every day *as leaders*, we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.



CS Lewis - The Weight of Glory

It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics, *all staff meetings, all projects, all annual performance appraisals, all parenting.*



CS Lewis - The Weight of Glory

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. *Schools, businesses, organizations, churches*—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we *lead, supervise, instruct, coach, direct, parent, and correct*—immortal horrors or everlasting splendours.



CS Lewis - The Weight of Glory

This does not mean that we—*leaders*—are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously....



Leaders are best when
we sacrifice the pursuit
of our personal
privilege



Nehemiah 5:14-18

- I didn't take the official food allowance
- I devoted myself to working on the wall
- I required my servants to work on the wall
- I asked for nothing
- I fed more than 150 people at my table every day
- I refused to claim the governor's food allowance



Nehemiah 5:15

The former governors, in contrast, had laid heavy burdens on the people, demanding a daily ration of food and wine, besides forty pieces of silver. Even their assistants took advantage of the people. But because I feared God, I did not act that way.



Philippians 2:5-7

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Though he was God,

he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;

he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.



Leaders are best when
we sacrifice the pursuit
of our personal
privilege



Nehemiah 5:19

Remember, O my God, all that I have done for these people, and bless me for it.



Leaders are best when
we lead for an
audience of one



We Fall Short as Leaders

- In His Mercy, God doesn't condemn us for all the times we fall short as leaders



We Fall Short as Leaders

- In His Mercy, God doesn't condemn us for all the times we fall short as leaders
- In His Grace, God leads us into roles of influence to accomplish His purposes



We Fall Short as Leaders

- In His Mercy, God doesn't condemn us for all the times we fall short as leaders
- In His Grace, God leads us into roles of influence to accomplish His purposes
- We have the Holy Spirit to guide us, to correct us, and to comfort us



LEAD THE WAY

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH

