

# 'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

## Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

### Message 8 - 'Spiritual Leadership' Nehemiah 5: 14 - 19



The 'good hand of God' has been ever present throughout Nehemiah's leadership and desire to complete the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. We have seen in previous studies how the Lord has enabled him, and greatly helped him to lead in the midst of a difficult challenge with threatening opposition. We considered four of the aspects of Nehemiah's spiritual leadership last week. They were:

**1. Nehemiah was a Leader with Independence** - Nehemiah was able to be a leader who was independent because he feared the Lord, and as a result was only concerned about leading in a way that would be pleasing to his God, and his hand was not forced to conform to the temptations of man. How we need our leaders to have a right understanding of the fear of the Lord, that it should have a bearing on their actions. Yet also, how we must pray that there is a right fear of the Lord in our lives so that we may worship and walk in a manner pleasing to Him.

**2. Nehemiah was a Leader with Integrity** - Nehemiah was a leader with integrity, because he had at his heart a desire to serve for the purpose of bringing glory to God, and encouraging the people to do the same. He was not of double-mind, but was committed to this purpose. Leaders, office-bearers, we need to heed this, and brethren you need to pray for such characteristics to be present in your leaders.

**3. Nehemiah was a Leader who was Indiscriminate** - Nehemiah was a leader who was indiscriminate because he was willing to give what he had for the benefit of others. The example we have in these verses is seen in a very practical sense. We must be a spiritual people, whose heart is set on heavenly things, but at the same time let us not ignore the practical out workings of such a perspective. As with Nehemiah, let us also be indiscriminate with our generosity, his generosity was not limited to a select group, but his generosity was such that it extended beyond natural boundaries to those beyond. He was generous to others and asked for no reward, he did not give to get.

**4. Nehemiah was a Leader who was Internally Steeled** - 'If men forget me, let my God think on me, and I desire no more'. For the spiritual leader, he is internally steeled against the waves of opposition or difficulty, as his desire is for God and God alone. If one is in leadership for the favour of men, then it is a sad and hard road, and the desiring of such status for such motivation will end in disaster. The praise of man lasts but for a moment, and can soon turn to scorn. For a leader to be internally steeled in the refuge of God, so that his desire and contentment dwells only in the Lord, is an essential aspect of leadership. As really, there should be this element in all of the Lord's people that our only purpose should be to please the Lord and nothing else will do.



**Penzance Baptist Church**  
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs