

## 1-21-18 Middle Management – Nehemiah 2:9-20

Have you ever been in a position where you had authority over others, yet you were still under the authority of someone else?

This is almost always true in any situation! **Most of us are simply middlemen!**

- In college I was a supervisor... of the dish room! I was also an R.A.
- I was hired here 15 years ago as a pastor... a youth pastor!
- Now I'm the Lead Pastor... but I'm still under authority!

*How should one live into a role of middle management?*

Nehemiah once again gives us a great example!

- **Nehemiah was on a mission from God! Yet it was the mission, not the person that was of utmost significance to him!**

When Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, he initially was silent about why he was there. Vs. 11-12. Why would he do that?

Most of us would have been quick to promote ourselves with God's endorsement, but instead Nehemiah goes under the radar & chooses to use God's endorsement to promote the work instead!

*Are we ever tempted to make much of ourselves b/c of the position we hold, or do we simply make much of the work God has called us to do?*

**Good middle management requires humility!** It's not about us!

- **Nehemiah had been sent personally by the king, yet it is Nehemiah himself who does the grunt work of inspecting the walls of the city.**

Vs. 13-16 - Being the king's ambassador, he could have easily sent someone else to do the grunt work, but Nehemiah gets his hands dirty!

*Are we ever tempted to use our position of authority to get out of getting our hands dirty? Do we see ourselves as above certain tasks?*

**Good middle management requires engagement!** We should never see ourselves as above the work that needs done – no matter what it is!

- **Nehemiah shares both in the problem & in the solution in Jerusalem!**

***"You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem..."*** Vs. 17

Most of us would have been quick to pass the blame & then expect those we thought were responsible to fix it. **Nehemiah inserts himself!**

*Are we ever tempted to shift the blame to others for the problems around us, and then pass off the responsibilities to fix them as well?*

**Good middle management takes ownership!** They accept responsibility for the problem and they actively participate in the solution!

Nehemiah was great middle management b/c he was a great leader. He didn't force others to work for him, he led others by working with them!

Listen to his invitation, ***"Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision."*** - Vs. 17

The best kind of leader is not one who pushes or pulls others along!  
**The best kind of leader is one who leads others by example!**

*Are we ever tempted to use our position to force change, or do we use our position to lead change?* There is a big difference!

We need leaders who will lead change, not CEO's who will dictate it!

**We the people of middle management, need to see the opportunities before us to lead positive change in this world and then do it!**

God is doing a good work in our day as well. Do we recognize it? Will we participate in it? Will we lead others to join with us in it?

When we make what God is doing in this world less about us and more about His good redemptive purposes, then we too will come to realize, as Nehemiah did, that the ***"hand of God is upon us for good."***

I also believe that when we lead well, that we'll see, as Nehemiah did, those around us join in and say ***"Let us rise up and build."*** Vs. 18

There will always be opposition, but with good leadership, & God's hand upon us, we can dare to believe that there is hope in our world today.

**Let us live into our middle management roles, lead well, & trust God!**

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