

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

Lesson 9 – Leading by Example

Nehemiah 5:14-19

We live in a time where we are constantly confronted by leaders who have been the source of public scandal. Hardly a day passes by that we don't hear about another situation where people less fortunate are being taken advantage of in some way. Well, things were really no different in Nehemiah's days. The rich leaders had taken advantage of the poor and this practice had caused a division among the workers. Nehemiah quickly stepped in to resolve this problem. Instead of ignoring the situation or sweeping it aside, he courageously confronted the greedy culprits. He reminded the leaders that they are not to use their positions to promote their own interests or wealth. Then he used his own life as an example. How refreshing! Because he was a godly man who didn't abuse his privileges, he was able to stand unashamed and confront these wrong doers – and they listened! What an awesome testimony to us today. When we use the power, positions or resources entrusted to us in an honest way, it pleases the Lord and our example shines brightly for many to see!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 5:14-19

¹⁴Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions. ¹⁵But the former governors who *were* before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants *were* gathered there for the work. ¹⁷And at my table *were* one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. ¹⁸Now *that* which was prepared daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people. ¹⁹Remember me, my God, for good, *according to* all that I have done for this people.

This Week's Memory Verse:

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Hebrews 13:7(NKJV)

1. In what ways was Nehemiah a good example of godly leadership and a follower of God?

2. Look up Titus 1:7-9 and note the qualifications of a leader. Why do you think it is important for a Christian leader to be a good example of godly leadership? (v. 9) _____

3. The Apostle Paul makes a similar statement as Nehemiah did about compensation in 1 Corinthians 9:8-14. Read this scripture and answer the following questions. (Read the NLT if available.)

- a. What reasons are given that allowed Paul to take compensation for his work? _____

- b. What reason did Paul give for not taking compensation? (v. 12) _____

- c. Neither Nehemiah nor Paul took advantage of God's people. What do you learn from their example that can help you to avoid taking advantage of others? _____

4. What happens to a church or Christian organization when the leader(s) do not follow the example of Nehemiah and the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-5? Have you ever been involved in a Christian organization where these guidelines were not followed? What was the result? _____
