

LESSONS THIS QUARTER.....LIVE AS GOD WANTS

- 01) 3 Dec (12/10)..... Ezra 1:1-3:13 Seizing New Opportunities
02) 10 Dec (12/17)..... Ezra 4:1-6:22 Working w/ Confidence in God
03) 17 Dec (12/24).....Ezra 7:1-10:44 Following Godly Spiritual Leaders
04) 31 Dec Neh 1:1-3:32 Working Cooperatively
05) 07 Jan..... Neh 4:1-7:73Devising Strategies
06) 14 Jan..... Neh 8:1-10:39Rededicating Lives
07) 21 Jan..... Ps 139:1-24 Valuing Every Life
08) 28 Jan..... Neh 11:1-13:31 Keeping Commitments
09) 04 Feb..... Esth 1:1-2:23When Life turns upside Down
10) 11 Feb..... Esth 3:1-4:17 When Service is Risky
11) 18 Feb..... Esth 5:1-7:10 How Courage Triumphs
12) 25 Feb..... Esth 8:1-10:3 What is Worth Celebrating

- e) Know who’s qualified to serve vv6-65
i) Genealogy is no longer an issue
ii) Spiritual maturity and irreproachable character
f) Know that some will do little, others a lot vv70-73
i) Statistics collection is OK
ii) Know where you are at and where you are going
iii) Know how many, where they live and how best they can serve, and where they can serve

INTRODUCTION / QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

- “God helps those who help themselves” – True or False?
- God helps those who stay true to Him
• How can we tell when we need to be like sheep or harmless as a dove, and when we can be like warriors – ready to purge the temple and rebuke the rulers like Nehemiah & Christ?

CONCLUSION

- Know your enemies and their devices/capabilities
• Know that God’s people may be part of the problem
• Be biblically prepared to handle each situation God puts us in
♦ Study His word, pray, obey, encourage others to do same

SUPPORTING PASSAGES

LESSON PLAN

- 1) Coping w/ External PersecutionNeh 4
a) When the enemy made plans to attack, Nehemiah prayed, posted a guard, and prepared to fight. vv6-9
- Is this a principle we can use today?
b) Illus. Episcopalian church ready to split over gay issues
- What walls did they fail to repair and sustain?
- How should we guard against socially-charged issues?
c) Other strategies and tactics:
i) Posted armed guards based on families vv13-14
- This was a motivation factor. People always fight harder to protect their own families and property
ii) Accurately assess situation (fight, flight, or lose)
- Fight – Count the cost Lk 14:31,32
- Flight – Know when to flee Mt 10:23
- Lose the battle – Rom 8:36
iii) Encourage leaders and people to take a stand
2) Coping w/ Internal Problems.....Neh 5
a) The rich get richer, the poor get poorer during crisis
b) Nehemiah assessed the situation and “reasoned” with and challenged/rebuked the civic & religious leaders, nobles, & rulers
c) A better option was offered – stay true to God’s word
i) Must treat household of God w/ generosity
ii) Live above reproach before all v9
iii) Practice what we preach even during hard times
iv) Seek commitments 5:12-13
v) Live by example 5:14-19
3) Coping w/ Stress & Compromising SituationsNeh 6
a) Avoid distractions while on a mission
b) Know the enemy’s tactics – ie, manipulation, deception
c) Know when to respond to false accusations v8
d) Be steadfast, courageous and faithful
4) Coping w/ Day-to-Day IssuesNeh 7
a) Establish order, discipline - individuals & corporately
i) Defined roles & responsibilities is OK
ii) But avoid legalism where it exceeds God’s Word
- e.g., style of dress, length of hair, diet, etc.
b) Know and stay true to sound doctrine & principles
c) Spiritual qualifications seem to have precedence over technical qualifications, even for civic roles..... v2
d) Know if/when God is prompting/leading v5

NOTES

Series of horizontal lines for taking notes.

...Did you Know?
The 2nd Temple lacked five things which the first Temple possessed:
1. The Ark of the Covenant – with the 10 Commandments and the budding rod of Aaron
2. The Urim and Thummin – stones for casting lots to determine God’s leading
3. The Fire – that was always to be lit
4. The Anointing Oil
5. The Holy Spirit’s presence – periodic display of miraculous fire & smoke
- per Rabbi Samuel bar Inia, Systematic Theology, Vol I, p525
Yet the 2nd Temple would receive more honor than the 1st!
- The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts (Hag 2:9)