



## Build the Wall – Build a Life – Build a Leader – HOW TO HANDLE RECOGNITION

All men have at some time and to some degree experienced having the walls to their heart torn down by the enemy in various ways. Your heart is like a city, which you are to protect from all forms of attack. Your heart is made up of your whole person—your mind, will and emotions. When the walls of your heart are torn down, the enemy has a free access to your mind, your emotions, or your choices. He comes in to deceive you into thinking destructive thoughts about who you are. He comes in to stir up your emotions with anger, confusion, depression, bitterness and shame. He comes in to influence or control your choices. When the walls are torn down you are vulnerable to addictions and uncontrolled thoughts, which invite you to believe lies about yourself and reality. You must confront the lies, be a leader and initiate the work of rebuilding the walls of strength, definition, and leadership. The story of Nehemiah is a narrative of leadership and the rebuilding of a life – a leader in the context of the community of God.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable  
www.MensTable.com

**Summary:** A Man knows how to handle recognition.

**Bible Verses:** Nehemiah 6:15,16, Nehemiah 5:14-19.

Joshua 1:7-8, James 1:2-4, I Cor. 16:2, Proverbs 29:2.

I Cor. 9:1-7, I Cor. 9:11-12.

**Music:** Gotta Serve Somebody – Bob Dylan

**Video:** The rarest commodity is leadership without ego: Bob Davids at

TEDxESCP

**Resources:** Nehemiah – Becoming a Disciplined Leader by Gene Getz

Nehemiah – Overcoming Challenges by Bill Hybels

The Emotionally Healthy Leader by Peter Scazzero

October 27, 2016

### Nehemiah: How Do You Handle Recognition – Neh. 5:14-19.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ > Nehemiah provides a wonderful model of how to handle success. When Nehemiah was appointed Governor, he discovered that the elite of Israel were selfishly exploiting the poor.
2. Promotion brings \_\_\_\_\_. Nehemiah had a liberal food allowance. Nehemiah chose not to use it (5:14). However, he still fed 150 Jews regularly at his own table—men and officials who were part of his staff. He also regularly entertained visiting dignitaries from the surrounding nations (5:17,18).
3. Promotion must never be used to \_\_\_\_\_. Nehemiah did not use those who served him to take advantage of others. He had them working beside him rather than out exploiting the people (5:16).

### Nehemiah: A High Calling from God. – Neh. 5:14-19.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > Nehemiah did not take advantage of the people because of the fear of God (5:15). He did not violate the law of God, nor did he violate the nature of God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ to God > Nehemiah could not and would not abuse his privileges as Governor. This is also why he became so furious at the nobles and rulers in Israel who were exploiting the poor by lending them money, charging them exorbitant interest rates, and then confiscating their land and enslaving them when they had nothing left to pay off their debts.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ > Nehemiah's conscience would not allow him to lay this extra burden on the people. If they were willing to sacrifice their own personal resources and their own personal comforts to achieve God's will, then Nehemiah chose to pick up the tab out of his own personal resources. Nehemiah was a model (Joshua 1:7,8).

### HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE RECOGNITION AND HONOR GOD.

1. Receive recognition as a \_\_\_\_\_. See whatever your position, role, or responsibility as a gift from God.
2. Receive recognition as an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_. Increased responsibility stretches you. It provides opportunities to increase your trust in God. It allows you to develop new skills. You need a certain amount of challenge to grow spiritually and psychologically (James 1:2-4).
3. Receive recognition to improve your \_\_\_\_\_. It is now wrong to make money. An increased income enables you to give more to meet others' needs and to advance the kingdom of God. Scripture is clear that you are to give proportionately as you prosper (I Cor. 16:2).
4. Receive recognition to create working conditions that will benefit and help \_\_\_\_\_. We need Godly leaders (Prov. 29:2).
5. Receive recognition realizing that you will face new \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. You must be humble and stay on guard.
6. Receive recognition by never \_\_\_\_\_. Never use your position as a platform to "promote" yourself. If you are not committed to Godly values, you can misuse your resources to build your own personal empire.
7. Receive recognition by being wise to give up certain rights so as to avoid any "\_\_\_\_\_"—or to simply be a good example. Nehemiah refused to use his rights as governor because the people were facing hard economic times (I Cor. 9:1, 4, 7, 11-12).
8. Receive recognition by considering your \_\_\_\_\_. Nehemiah was motivated by three factors:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ > Today, we need more godly fear. Rightly defined, this means we should stand in awe of who God is and what He's done for us.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ > Never use your position of power to exploit people.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ > God had his hand on Nehemiah's life.

### Action: Journal This!

1. A Leader addresses his own brokenness. With God's help, I will begin immediately to address the following personal issue in my life \_\_\_\_\_. What resource or relationship do you need to receive?
2. I measure the success of planning and decision-making primarily in terms of honoring God and how I am growing in my relationship with Him.

## Bible Verses

### **Nehemiah 6:15,16**

The wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul. It had taken fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard the news and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies totally lost their nerve. They knew that God was behind this work.

### **Nehemiah 5:14-19**

From the time King Artaxerxes appointed me as their governor in the land of Judah - from the twentieth to the thirty-second year of his reign, twelve years - neither I nor my brothers used the governor's food allowance. Governors who had preceded me had oppressed the people by taxing them forty shekels of silver (about a pound) a day for food and wine while their underlings bullied the people unmercifully. But out of fear of God I did none of that. I had work to do; I worked on this wall. All my men were on the job to do the work. We didn't have time to line our own pockets. I fed one hundred and fifty Jews and officials at my table in addition to those who showed up from the surrounding nations. One ox, six choice sheep, and some chickens were prepared for me daily, and every ten days a large supply of wine was delivered. Even so, I didn't use the food allowance provided for the governor - the people had it hard enough as it was. Remember in my favor, O my God, Everything I've done for these people.

### **Joshua 1:7-8**

Give it everything you have, heart and soul. Make sure you carry out The Revelation that Moses commanded you, every bit of it. Don't get off track, either left or right, so as to make sure you get to where you're going. And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed.

### **James 1:2-4**

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life

is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

### **I Cor. 16:2**

Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal.

### **Proverbs 29:2**

When good people run things, everyone is glad, but when the ruler is bad, everyone groans.

### **I Cor. 9:1-7**

And don't tell me that I have no authority to write like this. I'm perfectly free to do this - isn't that obvious? Haven't I been given a job to do? Wasn't I commissioned to this work in a face-to-face meeting with Jesus, our Master? Aren't you yourselves proof of the good work that I've done for the Master? Even if no one else admits the authority of my commission, you can't deny it. Why, my work with you is living proof of my authority! I'm not shy in standing up to my critics. We who are on missionary assignments for God have a right to decent accommodations, and we have a right to support for us and our families. You don't seem to have raised questions with the other apostles and our Master's brothers and Peter in these matters. So, why me? Is it just Barnabas and I who have to go it alone and pay our own way? Are soldiers self-employed? Are gardeners forbidden to eat vegetables from their own gardens? Don't milkmaids get to drink their fill from the pail?

### **I Cor. 9:11-12**

So if we have planted spiritual seed among you, is it out of line to expect a meal or two from you? Others demand plenty from you in these ways. Don't we who have never demanded deserve even more?

## GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY

Bob Dylan

You may be an ambassador to England or France  
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance  
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world  
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls.

(CHORUS)

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed  
You're gonna have to serve somebody,  
It may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.

Might be a rock'n' roll adict prancing on the stage  
Might have money and drugs at your commands, women in a cage  
You may be a business man or some high degree thief  
They may call you Doctor or they may call you Chief.

Chorus

You may be a state trooper, you might be an young turk  
You may be the head of some big TV network  
You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame  
You may be living in another country under another name

You may be a construction worker working on a home  
You may be living in a mansion or you might live in a dome

You might own guns and you might even own tanks  
You might be somebody's landlord you might even own banks.

Chorus

You may be a preacher with your spiritual pride  
You may be a city councilman taking bribes on the side  
You may be working in a barbershop, you may know how to cut hair  
You may be somebody's mistress, may be somebody's heir.

Chorus

Might like to wear cotton, might like to wear silk  
Might like to drink whiskey, might like to drink milk  
You might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread  
You may be sleeping on the floor, sleeping in a king-sized bed.

Chorus

You may call me Terry, you may call me Jimmy  
You may call me Bobby, you may call me Zimmy  
You may call me R.J., you may call me Ray  
You may call me anything but no matter what you say.

Chorus

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**BUILD 'THE WALL**

## **Build the Walls – Build a Life—Build a Leader!**

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## **Rebuild the Wall – How to Handle Recognition**

***Nehemiah 6:15,16***

# Nehemiah: How Do You Handle Recognition – Neh. 5:14-19

1. Promotion and Recognition > Nehemiah provides a wonderful model of how to handle success. When Nehemiah was appointed Governor, he discovered that the elite of Israel were selfishly exploiting the poor.
2. Promotion brings privileges. Nehemiah had a liberal food allowance. Nehemiah chose not to use it (5:14). However, he still fed 150 Jews regularly at his own table—men and officials who were part of his staff. He also regularly entertained visiting dignitaries from the surrounding nations (5:17,18).
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# Nehemiah: A High Calling from God. – Neh. 5:14-19

1. **Fear of God** > Nehemiah did not take advantage of the people because of the fear of God (5:15). He did not violate the law of God, nor did he violate the nature of God.
2. **Committed & Obedient** to God > Nehemiah could not and would not abuse his privileges as Governor. This is also why he became so furious at the nobles and rulers in Israel who were exploiting the poor by lending them money, charging them exorbitant interest rates, and then confiscating their land and enslaving them when they had nothing left to pay off their debts.
3. Sensitive to the **Needs of Others** > Nehemiah's conscience would not allow him to lay this extra burden on the people. If they were willing to sacrifice their own personal resources and their own personal comforts to achieve God's will, then Nehemiah chose to pick up the tab out of his own personal resources. Nehemiah was a model (Joshua 1:7,8).

# HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE RECOGNITION AND HONOR GOD

1. Receive recognition as a **GIFT from God**. See whatever your position, role, or responsibility as a gift from God.
2. Receive recognition as an opportunity for **personal growth**. Increased responsibility stretches you. It provides opportunities to increase your trust in God. It allows you to develop new skills. You need a certain amount of challenge to grow spiritually and psychologically (James 1:2-4).
3. Receive recognition to improve your **financial situation**. It is now wrong to make money. An increased income enables you to give more to meet others' needs and to advance the kingdom of God. Scripture is clear that you are to give proportionately as you prosper (I Cor. 16:2).
4. Receive recognition to create working conditions that will benefit and help **others**. We need Godly leaders (Prov. 29:2).

## HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE RECOGNITION AND HONOR GOD

5. Receive recognition realizing that you will face new **temptations** and **challenges**. You must be humble and stay on guard.
6. Receive recognition by never **abusing your privileges**. Never use your position as a platform to “promote” yourself. If you are not committed to Godly values, you can misuse your resources to build your own personal empire.
7. Receive recognition by being wise to give up certain rights so as to avoid any **“appearance of evil”**—or to simply be a good example. Nehemiah refused to use his rights as governor because the people were facing hard economic times (I Cor. 9:1, 4, 7, 11-12).
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  1. **Fear of God** > Today, we need more godly fear. Rightly defined, this means we should stand in awe of who God is and what He’s done for us.
  2. **Compassion for People** > Never use your position of power to exploit people.
  3. **Favored by God** > God had his hand on Nehemiah’s life.



## **Action: Journal This!**

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