



Week Five – Nehemiah: 52 Days

CONNECT

- Think of a time in your life when you had someone in authority over you (e.g., a boss, a coach/ teacher, a parent, a mentor) who encouraged and enabled you to excel at something beyond what you thought you could do. What happened during this experience?

WORD

Nehemiah 6:15-7:4 (NIV)

¹⁵So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. ¹⁷Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me. After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the Levites were appointed. ²I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most people do. ³I said to them, “The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot. While the gatekeepers are still on duty, have them shut the doors and bar them. Also appoint residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and some near their own houses.” ⁴Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.

THOUGHT

Often people assume a leadership role and make the mistake of not investing and trusting in a team. Some leaders will make attempts to succeed on their own, controlling every detail or decision. Others choose to micromanage a project in order to make sure they feel comfortable and achieve the desired result. In chapter 7 of his book, *Developing the Leader within You*, former Pastor and renowned leadership expert John Maxwell focuses on the necessity of the leader to develop other leaders around him. In chapter 7 Maxwell’s thesis is “The more people you develop, the greater the extent of your dreams.” As we read further we’ll see the outcome of Nehemiah’s leadership.

DISCUSSION

1. In the previous chapters, how has Nehemiah described his participation in the building project? How does one recognize his or her position of leadership without taking glory?

2. What kind of process have you used when passing on responsibility to a successor? What is necessary before, during and after the transfer of leadership?

3. How do you know when it's time to move on from something to which you once felt called? How do you know that God is moving you on to something new?

4. What choices had Nehemiah made up to this point that made the decision to relinquish power easier?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Figure out all the places, people, jobs God has made you a leader over. Begin crafting a plan for the one to come after you.
- Share with someone where you are in the various spheres of influence you have, making note of where you see God taking you to the next level.

PRAYER

- Ask God to help you know when/if it is time for you to move on to the next thing he has for you.
- Ask God to show you, who He is selecting to come up behind you, pray for their ability to lead.