

SUCCESS IS _____

I am successful in _____

HANDLING SUCCESS

Nehemiah 5:14-19

ACCEPT THE HONOR

Nehemiah 5:14 – Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year – twelve years –

DISCERN THE PRIVILEGES

Nehemiah 5:14b -- Neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor.

REFORM THE POLICIES

- Overtaxed

Nehemiah 5:15 – But the earlier governors – those preceding me – placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine.

- Corrupted Authority

Nehemiah 5:15b – Their assistants also lorded it over the people.

- Opportunistic Officials

Nehemiah 5:16b – We did not acquire any land.

PERFORM THE RESPONSIBILITIES

Nehemiah 5:16 – Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work.

Nehemiah 5:17 – Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days and abundant supply of wine of all kinds.

EARN THE PEOPLE'S HONOR

Nehemiah 5:18 – In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

REMEMBER THE REASONS

Nehemiah 5:15b – I did not do so out of fear of the Lord.

Nehemiah 5:19 – Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.

CAR TALK:

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD HONOR YOU IN THE AREA OF SUCCESS?

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE TEMPTATIONS TO ABUSE HIS BLESSINGS?

GOING DEEPER

Nehemiah 5:14-19

1. Name something you and others say you do well, and consider your efforts a success. Name something you and others who know you should not do and is a challenge to your abilities and experience.

2. Nehemiah went from being the head organizer of the king's household staff, a personal advisor, and a trusted security guard, to being governor of Judea for 12 years and project manager for the demolished wall of Jerusalem. How was he prepared in his previous job to handle this next one? How would he still be unprepared in your opinion?

3. More than just the physical wall of Jerusalem was in shambles. What other "broken walls" would Nehemiah be constructing while he worked on the one of stones? Review Chapters 1-4

4. What skills would these other construction projects demand beyond being a decent stone mason?

5. Probably most important to his tasks would be the example he set within and among the people he was governing. Looking at our passage we see several decisions he would make that would reveal much about his heart and character.
Vs. 14
Vs. 15
Vs. 16
Vs. 17
Vs. 18

6. What do these decisions tell you about Nehemiah's values, and what were the mixed consequences of these decisions?

7. How successful would you declare Nehemiah to be? How would you measure his success? How might someone else have different measures and values and declare Nehemiah a failure?

8. In what areas of your life are you asking God for success? How will you measure it? How will you give the credit to God?