

Be A Servant Leader

The Karns elders taught a class on leadership for the high school male students, grades 10 through 12, this past quarter. A class on leadership would not be complete without presenting some of the lessons from Nehemiah. His example of leadership is as applicable in our time as it was when the Persian king Artaxerxes I appointed Nehemiah governor of Judah with a mission to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was committed to restoring the walls around Jerusalem and rebuilding the gates to the city. The task was formidable because of the condition of the walls and the limited amount of laborers available. The task was made much more difficult because of the threats and conspiracies by neighboring satraps or governors and opposition from some of his own brethren, the priests and nobles. Nehemiah never lost confidence in God nor his focus on the mission before him. The walls were restored and the gates were rebuilt.

A painful lesson we shared with these high school students was that as leaders in the Lord's church today, you may face opposition and criticism like Nehemiah as you serve God. One of the most difficult challenges to a leader in the Lord's church occurs when those you consider to be knowledgeable and mature Christians attempt to thwart your mission using some of the tactics Nehemiah's enemies used against him.

Nehemiah's prayer life was exemplary, he had a deep abiding concern for the people in Judah, and he had concern for the honor and glory of God. These qualities allowed him to persevere under difficult conditions while working on the walls around Jerusalem and as threats on his life were being made by his enemies.

Serving his God, caring for his followers, and completing his mission, Nehemiah exhibited the core principles of a servant leader. While Jesus is the best example of a servant leader, Nehemiah also exhibited an excellent example of leadership for some of the challenges we face in our culture. An abiding faith in God, a concern for people, and praying without ceasing will help each of us be servant leaders in our mission to build up the Karns congregation in our community.

For the elders,
Don Denton