

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in the foreground is covered in rubble, including broken stones and wooden planks. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text "REBUILDING the GATES" is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font. "REBUILDING" is on the top line, "the" is in the middle, and "GATES" is on the bottom line.

REBUILDING
the
GATES

The Outcry Against Leadership

Neh 5:1 - 5

1 And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. 2 For there were those who said, "We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live."

3 There were also some who said, "We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine."

4 There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards. 5 Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards."

Leadership Principles / Exhortations

Neh 5:6 - 13

6 And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. 7 After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "EACH OF YOU is exacting usury from his brother."

So I called a great assembly against them. 8 And I said to them, "According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?" Then they were silenced and found nothing to say. 9 Then I said, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"

Leadership Principles / Exhortations

Neh 5:6 - 13

10 I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury! 11 Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.”

12 So they said, “We will restore it, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say.”

Leadership Principles / Exhortations

Neh 5:6 - 13

13 Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied."

And all the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

Leadership Principles / Exhortations

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger stone wall. The floor is covered in rubble and debris, including broken stones and wooden planks. A simple wooden railing is positioned in front of the archway. The overall scene suggests a state of decay and destruction.

1. Redeem - Free the people.

Leadership Principles / Exhortations

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an interior or a shaded area. The archway is the central focus, leading into a dark passage. The surrounding walls are made of large, rectangular stone blocks, many of which are cracked and crumbling. The ground is covered in a thick layer of broken stones and debris. A simple wooden railing with vertical posts is positioned in front of the archway, partially obscuring the entrance. The overall atmosphere is one of desolation and decay.

1. Redeem - Free the people.
2. Revere - Fear God.

Leadership Principles / Exhortations

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground. The archway is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger stone wall. The ground in the foreground is covered in a large pile of broken stone blocks and debris. The overall scene is one of destruction and decay.

1. Redeem - Free the people.
2. Revere - Fear God.
3. Represent God, but dont replace Him.

Leadership Example by Nehemiah

Neh 5:14 - 19

14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions. 15 But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God. 16 Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work.

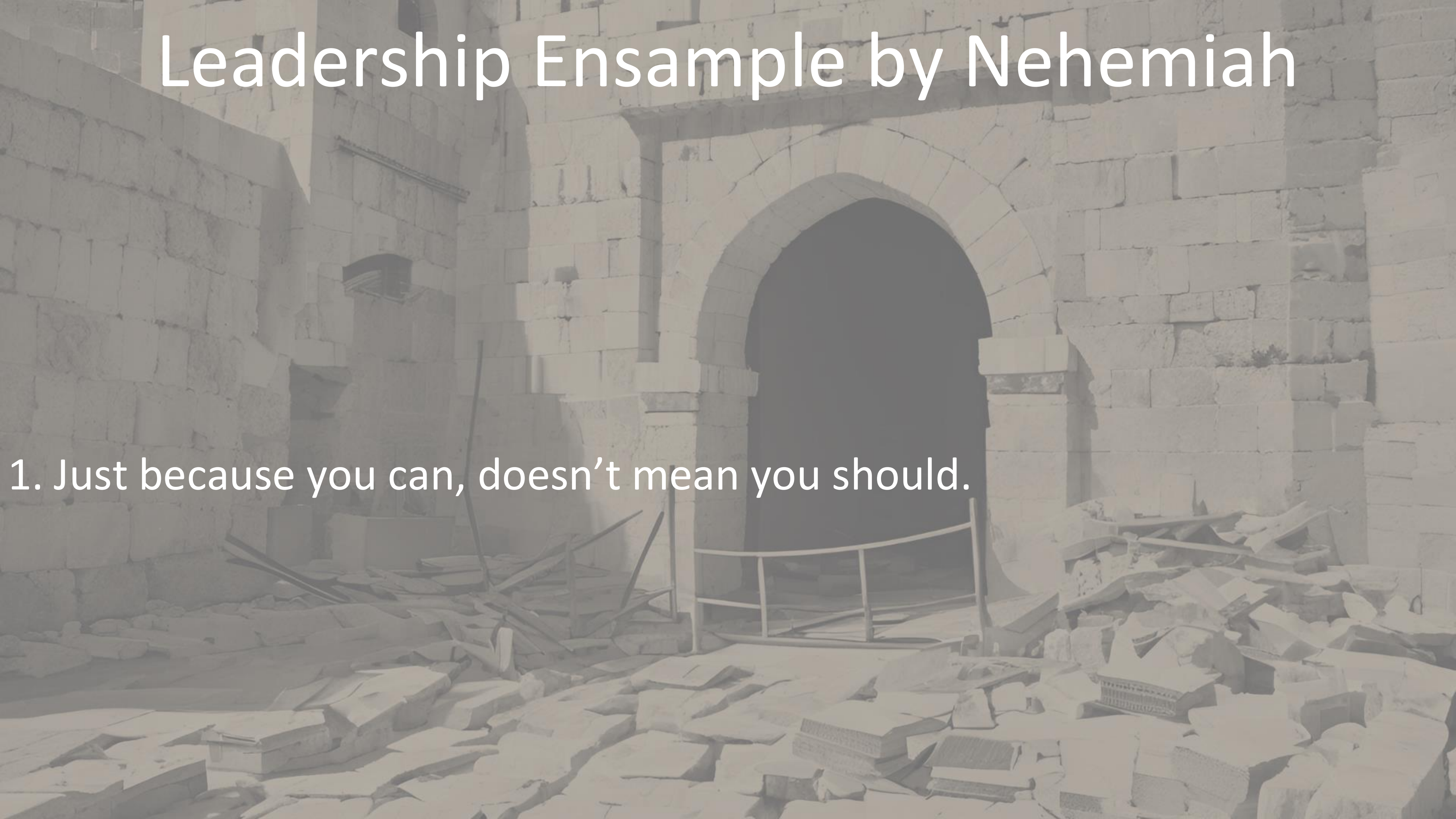
Leadership Example by Nehemiah

Neh 5:14 - 19

17 And at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. 18 Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people. 19 Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Leadership Ensample by Nehemiah

1. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.



Leadership Ensamble by Nehemiah

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The image is in a muted, sepia-like color palette. The archway is the central focus, leading into a dark interior. The surrounding walls are made of large, rectangular stone blocks, many of which are missing or broken. The ground is covered in a thick layer of rubble, including broken stones, bricks, and wooden beams. A simple wooden railing with vertical posts is positioned in front of the archway. The overall scene conveys a sense of decay and the need for reconstruction.

1. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
2. Work **WITH** the people.

Leadership Ensamble by Nehemiah

1. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
2. Work WITH the people.
3. Feed the people, eat with the people.

Leadership Ensamble by Nehemiah

1. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
2. Work WITH the people.
3. Feed the people, eat with the people.
4. Don't create yokes / policies that undo the very purpose God has put you there to accomplish.

Leadership Ensamble by Nehemiah

1. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
2. Work WITH the people.
3. Feed the people, eat with the people.
4. Don't create yokes / policies that undo the very purpose God has put you there to accomplish.
5. Do it all unto the Lord.

Leadership - Influence or control?

The real question on spiritual authority is not, 'does it exist', but rather, 'how is it to be exercised'. This will depend on how we define 'spiritual authority'. Jesus made it abundantly clear that what he meant by authority was influencing the flock by serving it.

The only right use of spiritual authority is to SERVE others.

- *Floyd McClung* -

Leadership - Influence or control?

Luke 22: 24 - 26

24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. 25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' 26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

Forgiveness towards authority

2 Cor 6:1 - 7:4

1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says:

“In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

Forgiveness towards authority

2 Cor 6:1 - 7:4

4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, 5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; 6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, 7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

The suffering they endured

- In much patience
- In tribulations
- In needs
- In distresses
- In stripes
- In imprisonments
- In tumults
- In labors
- In sleeplessness
- In fastings

How they conducted themselves

- By purity
- By knowledge
- By longsuffering
- By kindness
- By the Holy Spirit
- By sincere love
- By the word of truth
- By the power of God
- By the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left

Paradoxical experiences

- By honor and dishonor
- By evil report and good report
- As deceivers, and yet true
- As unknown, and yet well known
- As dying, and behold we live
- As chastened, and yet not killed
- As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing
- As poor, yet making many rich
- As having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Forgiveness towards authority

2 Cor 6:1 - 7:4

11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. 13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

Forgiveness towards authority

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The image is overlaid with text.

“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”

17 Therefore
“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”

Forgiveness towards authority

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey filter.

18

“I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty.”

Forgiveness towards authority

2 Cor 6:1 - 7:4

1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. 3 I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. 4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

Forgiveness towards authority

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in the foreground. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey filter.

There is a difference between PERCEIVED hurt and INTENTIONAL hurt, yet to the one who was hurt, they feel the same.

Forgiveness towards authority

Percieved Hurt:

- A. Walking according to the flesh (1:12, 17 and 10:13)
- B. Being deceitful (2:17, 4:2 and 12:16)
- C. Intimidating the Church with letters (10:9 - 10)
- D. Unjustly treating someone (7:2)
- E. Defrauding people (7:2)

Forgiveness towards authority

The background image shows a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks. The ground in front of the arch is covered in rubble and debris, including broken stone blocks and wooden planks. A simple wooden railing is positioned in front of the arch. The overall scene is one of destruction and decay.

- We opened our hearts to you.
- Open your hearts to us:
- We have wronged no one
- We have corrupted no one.
- We have cheated no one.
- We live and die together

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The archway is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in the foreground is covered in rubble, including broken stones and wooden planks. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text "REBUILDING the GATES" is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font. "REBUILDING" and "GATES" are in all caps, while "the" is in lowercase and smaller. The text is centered horizontally and spans across the middle of the image.

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