

YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
LIFE LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH

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Part 8 – Character Counts
Nehemiah 5:14-19

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1 Corinthians 10:12 "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." (England's Lord John **Acton** – 1887)

We will never rise above our **character**.

I. **MAKE A DECISION THAT YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO HONOR THE LORD.** (Nehemiah 5:15; 9)

What does it mean to reverence God?

A. To realize **God** has given us what we have.

*Psalm 75:6 "For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only **from God**. He promotes one and deposes another." (TLB)*

B. To realize that God is **holding us accountable**.

*2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (NKJV)*

II. **LOVE OTHERS GOD HAS BROUGHT INTO YOUR LIFE.** (Nehemiah 5:17-18)

1 Peter 4:8 “Love **covers** a multitude of sins.”

Put the needs of others **above your own**.

Psalm 78:72 “So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.” (NKJV)

III. DON'T LET YOUR POSITION GO TO YOUR **HEAD**. (Nehemiah 5:14-15)

1 Peter 5:2-3 “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; [3] not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

A. Lead others with a **humble heart**.

B. How you keep your position of leadership from developing inappropriate pride in your life?

1. **Love** those you lead and treat them accordingly.
2. Remember that your leadership position is a **gift from God**.
3. Believe only **half** of the compliments and **half** of the criticisms.
4. Keep your mind **focused on the task**.

Nehemiah 5:16 “Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall.”

IV. KEEP YOUR LIFE **PURE**. (Nehemiah 5:14-19)

2 Timothy 2:21 “If a man keeps himself clean from the contamination of evil, he will be a vessel used for honorable purposes, dedicated and serviceable for use by the Master, ready for any good purpose.”

Psalm 119:9, 11 “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (11) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”

How do we stay pure?

1. Accept God's standard of purity to be your **standard of purity**.
2. Spend time **regularly** with God in His Word.

3. Commit to being the same in your **private** life as you are in **public**.

Matthew 6:1 "Take care, do not do your good deeds publicly to be admired."

V. DISCIPLINE YOURSELF FOR **LONG TERM** REWARDS. (Nehemiah 5:19)

Hebrews 11:24-26 "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. [25] He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. [26] He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

- A. Self discipline means that we **voluntarily limit** our own freedom.

"1 Timothy 4:7 "... train yourself to be godly..."

*The only difference between a godly person and an ungodly person is that the godly person has built **godly disciplines** in his or her life.*

- B. The end result of personal discipline will be **long term rewards** in this life and in life to come.

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Notes:
