

Letters to the Next President

Today's Message – "Always Do What Is Right, Regardless" (Part 2)

Message Study Guide

Introduction

The year was 444 BC. The 70 year Babylonian captivity has ended. The leader of the Persian Empire, King Antaxerxes has decided to release the captives to return to their homeland. Nehemiah had been serving as wine taster, advisor, and Prime Minister to the king. Suddenly, God puts a desire in his heart to leave his comforted lifestyle and return to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall that had been torn down. Incredibly, the King appoints Nehemiah as Governor and makes certain he has enough money, materials, and man power to accomplish what God has put in his heart. What kind of leader will he be after being a faithful servant? Nehemiah chapter 5 clearly answers that question.

Discussion Outline

Mr. President, we ask that you.....

1. Lead us with moral authority
2. Lead by always doing what is right – regardless!
3. Lead with a willingness to stop what is wrong
4. Lead by example!

Discussion Questions

1. Do you know the difference between leading with moral authority and by authority that comes with position?
2. Have you ever followed a leader that abused their authority and as a result, you lost respect for them?
3. Nehemiah 5:6 reveals that Nehemiah was “angry” when he found out that money lenders had taken advantage of the terrible economic situation by charging interest. Was he right or wrong?
4. Nehemiah required that the lenders return the interest that had been paid back to the people. Would this or could this work in today’s society? Explain!
5. Nehemiah refused to accept special benefits he had coming to him as Governor because of the economic problems facing his nation. Should politicians consider doing the same thing today? What do you think would happen?

Think About It

Politicians seem to be more concerned about approval and popularity than they are about doing what is morally and ethically right. As a result, they end up saying what is needed to be elected and then doing something else. When a person’s words do not match their promises, they lose respect. Nehemiah was a leader whose words matched his actions. When he asked the nation to sacrifice and to do what was right for the sake of future generations, he led by example. Are you words and actions saying the same thing?

Do Something About It!

This week, listen carefully to what you are saying to people and identify areas where you said one thing and did another.

Be Willing To Change

Nehemiah 5:19 “Think upon me, my God, for good. Remember me for all I have done for this people.”