

Recap of 2/17/19 (Nehemiah 5:12-19):

1. Are we “eternity amnesiacs?”

“The fact is you cannot make sense out of life unless you look at it from the vantage point of eternity.... There has to be more to God’s plan than this world of sin, sickness, sorrow, and death. There has to be more than the temporary pleasures of this physical world. Yes, there is more, and when you live like there’s more to come, you live in a radically different way.... Let the values of eternity be the values that shape your living today, and keep telling yourself that the difficulties of today will someday completely pass away. Belief in eternity can clarify your values and renew your hope. Pray that God, by His grace, will help you remember forever right here, right now.” Paul David Tripp)

2. What made Nehemiah the great leader that he was is that he did not forget God, but lived in obedience to God’s Word and with complete confidence that God could and would deliver what He promised (for example, in the Mosaic Covenant, Nehemiah 1:8-10).

3. The officials and nobles of Judah who had been living at odds with the Word of God, when confronted by Nehemiah about their misdeeds, they humbled themselves and submitted to the Word of God.

-“Great leaders exhibit great courage by consistently addressing problem no matter where they are, what they are, or who has them....Great conviction about great truth breeds great courage.” (Handbook to Leadership).

4. Though Nehemiah had an important position with many privileges and financial perks, he did not take advantage of the people of God, as his predecessors had done. He did not use his position to enrich himself or to lord it over others.

5. The Bible makes it clear that those who are in authority over others are to serve them, not lord it over them. Greatness is seen in great service, as in the life of Jesus Himself, who came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for sin.