

# Leadership & the Word of God

(Nehemiah 8:1-8)

- Introduction:
1. Someone has said that anyone can steer a ship, but it takes a leader to chart a course.
  2. Could it be that many so-called leaders in the Lord's church today are merely steering the ship, keeping people entertained and fed, but have no idea how to arrive at the proper destination?
  3. That is not only possible, but it is a recurring reality when leaders do not know and love the word of God.
  4. Throughout the book of Nehemiah, we can see his reliance upon the word of God.
  5. Let's examine how Nehemiah's reliance upon God's word helped him be a great leader.

## I. Nehemiah Knew the Word of God

- A. (Nehemiah 1:8-9).
- B. Nehemiah recalled the words of God to Moses, and used those words upon which to base his appeal to God.
- C. Imagine trying to be successful in any sport while not knowing the rules.
- D. Likewise, imagine trying to serve God without knowing what God has spoken.

## II. Nehemiah Knew the Power of God's Presence

- A. (Nehemiah 4:14).
- B. Because Nehemiah knew the word of God, he therefore knew the power of God.
- C. (Judges 2:10) Didn't know God or his works.
- D. (1 Samuel 17:37).
- E. God is with us too (Matthew 28:19-20).

## III. Nehemiah Not Only Knew the Word of God, He Obeyed It

- A. (Nehemiah 5:5-7) Usury.
- B. (Nehemiah 8:14-16) Feast of Booths/Tabernacles.
- C. (Nehemiah 13:1-3) Unlawful marriage.
- D. (Nehemiah 13:15-18) Sabbath observance.
- E. (James 1:22).
  1. We can moralize all day long but that does no good.
  2. Church discipline (1 Corinthians 5).
  3. MDR (Ills. Needing a job & lecture - compassion or stickler for law).

## IV. A Good Leader Will Instruct the People in God's Word

- A. (Nehemiah 8:1-8).
- B. I'm concerned by the way we are squeezing out our time in the word.
- C. There's a difference in teaching a subject and teaching people that subject.

- Conclusion:
1. The result of this leader's commitment to God's word was that the people became informed, changed their behavior, and discovered the joy of the Lord.