

## GOD HAS A VISION FOR YOU

### NEW ALLIANCES AND NEW ROLES NEHEMIAH 3

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#### Lessons from Nehemiah Three

- Nature of vision requires many hands and talents
- Vision requires that we not only expand our territory but our
  - Alliances, our constituencies and our working group
- Often vision can suffer because we are stuck on the same traditional
  - Faithful few
  - Safety of traditional few
    - Comfort with familiar – synergy already established
    - No need for indoctrination into culture or minefields
    - Proven track record of accomplishment and dependability
  - Risk with broadening base
    - No proven track record
    - Do not know unwritten rules of polity
    - Harder to control or predict
  - Downside of traditional few
    - Can become exclusive
    - Vision may be reduced to comfort level of the few
    - Vision may suffer because of insufficient talent and resources of few
    - May be unaware of new issues and current challenges
    - May not see weaknesses that are glaring to new eyes
    - Sameness stifles growth
    - Few may take credit rather than giving God glory
  - Rewards of broadening base
    - Increase talent and resource pool
    - More people own vision
      - Raise questions regarding tradition, procedures and system that force clarification, elimination and growth
    - New ideas from persons help produce reality that is
      - Radically different from the present

#### Non-traditional roles and new partners

- Priests working on walls (vss. 1-2)
- Women working on the walls (vss. 12)

Nehemiah as a non-traditional leader helped to foster others moving beyond

#### Traditional roles

- What does not make a leader non-traditional?

Myth of age  
 Myth of education  
 Myth of wealth

What makes a leader non-traditional?

Continually seeking God's face, rather than cult of busyness  
 Abiding in God's face with openness to self-examination  
 Passion for growth/willingness to change  
 Passion for others  
 Self-confidence  
 Commitment to mission over methods  
 Commitment to version over tradition  
 Is able to keep focus on long view instead of short-term minutiae  
 Openness to non-traditional colleagues and new alliances  
 Not afraid of mistakes or criticism

Those who refuse to work

No vision has 100% buy-in, participation or cooperation  
 Lords did not oppose vision, they just refused to work on it when all hands were needed

Difference between uncooperative and opposition

Opposition: warriors; Uncooperative: weights

Reasons that some do not buy in

Pursuing their own agenda

Vested interests in status quo

They are not in charge

They have difference with those who are in charge

They do not like their arraignment

They refuse to see vision

They feel threatened by the vision

Big fish in little ponds even if those ponds are dysfunctional

They do not like their coworkers

They are lazy

Since great visions cost something, they are cheap and stingy

Discussion Questions:

What other characteristics do you identify in the non-traditional leader?

Do you consider yourself more of a traditional or non-traditional person?

Are you broad enough as a person to implement God's vision? Where do

You need improvement?

How do you handle those who do not oppose vision but do not help with vision?