

How A Leader Handles Temptation

Building The Leader Within You

October 10, 2012

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

Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people. Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.

Nehemiah 5:14-19 (NIV)

Three Common Temptations for Leaders

1. The temptation to _____ your position

But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine.

Nehemiah 5:15a (NIV)

2. The temptation to _____ your position

Their assistants also lorded it over the people.

Nehemiah 5:15b (NIV)

3. The temptation to _____ from your position

...food allotted to the governor.

Nehemiah 5:14 (NIV)

...I never demanded the food allotted to the governor.

Nehemiah 5:18 (NIV)

How To Keep Your Integrity as a Leader

1. Deepen My _____ For God

But out of reverence for God I did not act like that.

Nehemiah 5:18 (NIV)

How do we have reverence for God?

a. Realize God gives _____

For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God.
Psalm 75:6 (TLB)

Then I said: "O LORD, God of Heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and obey His commands, let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer Your servant is praying before You day and night for Your servants, the people of Israel."

Nehemiah 1:5-6 (NIV)

b. Realize God will _____

So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?"

Nehemiah 5:9 (NIV)

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:12 (NIV)

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

2. Develop a _____

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.
Nehemiah 5:6 (NIV)

Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

Nehemiah 5:147-18 (NIV)

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

*“People don’t _____ how much you _____ until they
_____ how much you _____. ”
John Maxwell*

3. Discipline for _____

Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.
Nehemiah 5:19 (NIV)

I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:23-25 (NIV)

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.
Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)

*Next Week:
How A Leader
Reaches New Heights*

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