

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

January 29

2023

Some Notable Characteristics of Nehemiah

Recently, in our adult Bible class, we concluded a study of the book of Nehemiah. Now, as we learned and discussed in our studies, there are some very notable characteristics of Nehemiah that stand out, that are worthy of imitation. So, let's again take a look at some of the notable characteristics of Nehemiah that are worthy of imitation. Starting with...

Nehemiah Trusted In and Regularly Prayed To God.

First and foremost, we have learned about the trust that Nehemiah had in the One True Living God (Nehemiah 4:14) and about how he continually prayed to God (Nehemiah 1:4-11, 2:4, 4:9). So, with the notable example of Nehemiah's trust in God, and his prayerfulness in mind, may we all likewise strive to be one who trusts in the Lord with all our hearts (Proverbs 3:5-6), and let's likewise be a people who are continual in prayer to God (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Nehemiah Sincerely Cared About His Brethren.

We have also learned about and discussed the sincere care and concern that Nehemiah possessed for his brethren. In Nehemiah 1:2, Nehemiah asked about the Jews who had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. However, when he heard about their great distress he sat down and wept, and mourned for many days (Nehemiah 1:3-4). We also learn in Nehemiah 5:19, about the good that Nehemiah did concerning his people, and in Nehemiah 7:3, we read about Nehemiah

instructing and emphasizing the importance of protection and safety for the people. So, just as Nehemiah sincerely cared about his brethren may we all likewise do the same (1 Peter 1:22).

Nehemiah Was Willing To Work.

Another notable characteristic of Nehemiah worthy of imitation was his willingness to work (Nehemiah 5:16), and not only was he willing to work, but he likewise made preparation to do his work by devoting time and thought to his work (Nehemiah 2:11-15). You see, just as Nehemiah displayed a willingness to work and prepared himself to do that work, may we all today strive to be a people who is always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Nehemiah Inspired The People To Work.

Now, not only was Nehemiah himself willing to work, but we also learn about Nehemiah inspiring the people to work (Nehemiah 2:17-18). You see, just as Nehemiah encouraged the people in his day to work, we likewise need to be one who encourages one another to be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14, 3:8), and just as God's people of old had a mind to work (Nehemiah 4:6) may we all likewise be one who is willing to do our part in our local work (Ephesians 4:16).

Nehemiah Refused To Be Stopped By Opposition.

Last, but certainly not least, one more notable characteristic of Nehemiah to be mindful of is his refusal to be stopped by opposition. You see, Nehemiah frequently faced various types of opposition (Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4:1-9, 5:1-6, 6:1-9). However, he refused to be stopped by the opposition he faced (Nehemiah 6:15-16). Therefore, just as Nehemiah stayed strong and opposed opposition may we likewise do the same (1 Corinthians 16:13; Jude 3), and may we never be a people who grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9).

Brethren, these are just a few examples of some of the notable characteristics of Nehemiah. May you find them encouraging, and may you strive to likewise imitate them.

✍️ Brad Phillips

Just What Does It Take To Motivate Us?

When I was working with the church in Davenport, Iowa, several years ago (before we were able to build our own building), we met in an old one-room schoolhouse. This arrangement seemed unique to a local television station, so it contacted us about coming to one of our assemblies and taping the service for a feature segment on their newscast.

We were happy to receive any publicity we could get, so we gave permission for people from the station to come to a Sunday morning worship. The day arrived and, for the first time, every man, woman and child in the congregation was there. Funny, isn't it, how the possibility of being on television inspires people?

As we were about to begin our worship the lights from the cameras came on and produced a surge that blew the one electrical fuse for the building. The news crew gathered up their equipment and discreetly left without any footage whatsoever.

This got me to thinking about what motivates people to attend worship and reminded me of a story I read that took place in a simpler time when Herbert Hoover was President of the United States.

President Hoover was traveling from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, after attending an event at which he had given a speech. Accompanying him were his wife and one cabinet member. As they traveled by car on the following Sunday morning, they came to a little church building by the side of the road. Noting that it was time for worship, they decided to stop and attend the service.

Only thirteen people attended the service that morning. Those who did attend and the man in the pulpit were happily surprised when the President of the United States came in and sat down with them in worship. They were further pleased by his generous contribution when the offering was taken. Before nightfall, the whole community had heard of the honored guest at the little church, and many regretted not being there.

I wonder how many of us would miss services if we knew that a President of the United States would be in attendance? If only Christians would realize that One much greater than the President is present every time the saints meet, maybe they would make more effort to be there.

✍ Al Diestelkamp

May Every Member Always Strive To Be At Every Service!

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Elders

David Lockhart	(317) 714-6213
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