

HAND ME ANOTHER BRICK – Part XIV

“Promotion Matters”

Reference: **Nehemiah 5:14-19**

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Nehemiah 5:14 starts another section in this book. Nehemiah is seen in this passage acting as the governor of this entire southern region called Judah and that included Jerusalem.

References: **Psalm 75:5-7**; **Proverbs 29:2** (see screen)

Two basic reasons the wicked often rule:

One... there are _____ that are available to rule than are the righteous.

Two... the righteous often _____ to rule.

There are three advantages of being promoted:

One: _____ - You can _____ more.

Two: _____ - You can _____ more.

Three: _____ - You can _____ more.

Nehemiah has been given some special privileges he did not enjoy before his promotion. This section shows us just how Nehemiah handled the promotional privileges he had now that he was governor.

ONE... Nehemiah did _____ some of his privileges.

One of the privileges Nehemiah had been given was a food allowance.

verses fourteen, seventeen and eighteen (see screen)

The lesson Nehemiah is teaching us is that just because someone has a right to do something does not mean that he should necessarily do it. This particular principle is illustrated again in the New Testament.

Leadership Principle: Losers focus on their _____; leaders focus on their _____.

TWO... Nehemiah did _____ any of his privileges.
verse fifteen (see screen)

Leadership Principle: Leadership is not _____.

What prevented Nehemiah from abusing his privileges as governor?

- Nehemiah had a _____.
verse fifteen (see screen)

Fearing God has both positive and negative elements:

In a **positive sense** there should be an awesome awareness of _____, in part, so we might be attracted to Him for salvation.

In a **negative sense** there should be an awesome awareness of _____ so we might have a deterrent to committing sin.

Reference: **Proverbs 16:6** (see screen)

The classic passage on this fact is found in **Romans 3:18** (see screen)

- Nehemiah wanted _____.
verse nineteen (see screen)

A PRAYER FOR PROMOTION

“Dear God,

I will accept with gratitude the opportunities for advancement You allow to come my way. I will, however, count the cost to me personally, and particularly, to my family, so that I will not violate any biblical priorities. But, I would not withdraw simply because I fear failure, or am unwilling to accept the accountability that accompanies a responsibility. Nor will I refuse the opportunity because of a misguided point of view that Christians should not seek or consider prestigious positions.

On the other hand, I realize that Satan will work harder in my life if I accept advancement. To counter these attacks, I will use the position as an opportunity to grow spiritually. I will consider this promotion as a better platform to also advance my Christian witness. Though I believe it is appropriate to use my improved financial situation to create a better sense of security for my family, I will also do all I can to be a good steward and give more to advance the work of Your church. I will never abuse the privileges accompanying my promotion, financially or in any other way. I will not exploit others, or become guilty of a conflict of interest.

To accomplish these goals, I will discharge my responsibilities in the fear of God, realizing You alone have made this opportunity possible. I will also do all I can to use my position as a servant to others, meeting their needs, and improving their lot in life. In turn, Lord, I believe You will reward me personally, both now and eternally, because I view my work as Your work, and because I have been faithful to Your principles. I will do all I can to make sure my motives honor You first, and foremost, and not myself.

In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Signed, _____

Date, _____