

Improving Our Maintaining

Improving Our Influence, part 9
Pastor Dave Nichols, March 10, 2019

Now What?

- One of the most decisive and often difficult times in your life is when you...

The Problem of Transition:

- Problems arise when influencers don't know how to...
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 -
- We must transition from _____

How to Maintain What You've Established:

_____ and _____ Leadership.
(Nehemiah 7:1-3, Matthew 25:23)

1. Recruit people based on...

- Their...
- Their...

2. Release people with _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 9" of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God's Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way! This session only has 2 more weeks before we take a break for Easter.

Now What?

After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed. (Nehemiah 7:1)

One of the most decisive and difficult times in your life is when you have accomplished a significant endeavor or reached a challenging goal.

- When have you accomplished a goal you had and did accomplishing that goal create new challenges in your life?

The Problem of Transition:

In order to maintain what had been accomplished by building the wall, Nehemiah had to make a significant transition in his leadership focus: **He had to move from an entrepreneur to an executive.**

- Why was it important for Nehemiah to be successful in making a transition in this aspect of his leadership?
- When have you needed to make these adjustments in your leadership roles either in your personal or professional life?
- How have you had to grow as there are changes in your marriage or parenting as those relationships have grown? Were there growing pains during those transition times?

Maintaining What You've Established:

Recruit and Release Leadership:

- What was the significance and purpose of Nehemiah appointing people as gatekeepers (security), singers (worship), and Levites (Spiritual leaders)?

Read Nehemiah 7:2

- What were the character qualities in Hananiah's life that caused Nehemiah to put him in a place of significant leadership?
- Why do you think the Bible specifically mentions these character qualities as significant?

1. Recruit people based on their faithfulness.

Read 1 Timothy 3:2-7

- How do these qualifications for leadership differ from what the non-Christian world looks for in their leaders?
- When choosing a leader why is character more important than a charismatic personality, a powerful position, or a title?
- Which of these character qualities would you like to see improved in your life? What is your part in seeing that these changes happen in your life? What is God's part?

2. Recruit people based on their integrity.

Read Matthew 25:14-23

- What are the "small things" you have been faithful in that would open the door for God to use your talents and abilities in "greater things?"
- What have you learned from mismanaging the "small things" in the past that will allow you to better serve God in the future?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16

- What adjustments do you need to make in your life so that this can be a part of your experience?

3. Release people with clear job descriptions.

Read: Nehemiah 7:3

- Why do you think Nehemiah set up such specific instructions to his gatekeepers? Why was this important for the protection of the city?
- How could the future of Jerusalem have been negatively impacted if these guidelines had not been set up?
- When have you seen leadership that was unwilling to follow the guidelines that have been set in place? What happened?

Nehemiah had made a significant impact for the city of Jerusalem by building the walls in just 52 days despite all of the opposition he faced. With this accomplishment we see in the passage we just have read that he had to be very careful to guard what he had gained.

- What accomplishments or achievements in your life need guarding and how will you begin doing that?

Spend some time praying for one another.