

Training for Reigning

Nehemiah 5:14-19

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Introduction:

When we become Christians, Scripture declares that we become a part of a royal priesthood. We become sons and daughters of the King. Paul writes in II Timothy 2:12 that "if we endure, we will also reign with him (Jesus Christ)." But our realm is not simply in the future. We are called to reign now! The Lord has already bestowed upon each believer royalty. The Apostle John writes that Jesus has "made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:6). Even in creation, we were commissioned to have "dominion" (Genesis 1:28).

You and I are called to do now what we shall do for eternity: to reign for the glory of God. So how do we do that? Paul advises young Timothy to train for godliness (I Timothy 4:7). There's nothing haphazard about this. The Lord calls each of us to train to reign. That is, we are purposefully to practice governing now for the glory of God. Our passage reveals how Nehemiah matured as a royal member of God's family. He reflects what it looks like when the Holy Spirit cultivates the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Robert Thune in his book *Gospel Eldership* cites the work of Dr. John Frame who has developed what he calls "The Leadership Triangle" by emphasizing three crucial aspects: Competence, Compatibility, and Character. In the previous chapters we've seen how Nehemiah reflects the first two. In our passage today we'll see five qualities that reflect his character produced by the Spirit of the Living God. The Holy Spirit purposes to cultivate these same qualities in us for the glory of God.

I. H _____ and C _____ (vss. 14, 18)

1. What evidences do you see in Neh. 1-5 that indicate that he was humble and compassionate?
2. Who do you know that is humble? What makes him/her so?
3. Samuel Chadwick said, "If you're successful don't crow. If you fall, don't croak." What does this mean?
4. Can you be humble if you are in the "limelight?"

II. I _____

vss. 15-16

1. Why do you think that there is an integrity crisis in the church? How widespread do you think that it is? What can you do in response?
2. Robert McCheyne said, "It is not great talents that God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus." What does this mean?
3. The message must match the man. What does this mean?

III. S _____

vs. 16a

1. Reflect on Philippians 3:13-14.
2. What does it mean to be single-minded when we are pulled in all different directions?

IV. G _____

vss. 17 - 18

1. Talk about times that you have experienced generosity other than with finances?
2. What does living generously mean to you?

V. R _____

vss. 15b, 19

1. What does it mean to revere the Lord?
2. What does it look like in our everyday lives?

Conclusion/Challenge:

Application:

Based on God's Word, enabled by the Spirit of the Living God,
I purpose to: _____

