

Message: ***"How to Handle Promotion"***

Scripture: Nehemiah 5:14-19
(11-02-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

In chap 5 we learn Nehemiah was promoted to the highest rank in all Judah – governor (for 12 years!). No sooner had he accepted the job of governor Nehemiah was presented with three major area of tests that face every promotion and success. Question: Will he be able to keep the faith?

Test of Privilege. During his duties as governor neither Nehemiah nor his brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. Every promotion comes with its own special set of privileges, rights, benefits, and special favors. There are few who can resist using, even abusing it. **Test of Power.** Every promotion carries with it another pressure. No matter what position you are given power. The governors before Nehemiah placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. **Test of Priorities.** Rather than pursue personal wealth, Nehemiah devoted himself to the work on this wall. Not only did Nehemiah avoid taking advantage of the people. He didn't slack off.

Lessons from Nehemiah: When you're promoted: **Learn to SHARE.** Guard yourself from pride and self-centeredness. Think of others first. **Learn to SUBMIT.** Nehemiah and his associates not only paid their own bills, but they were also careful not to exploit the people in any way. **Learn to SERVE.** Nehemiah 5:19 indicates perhaps the greatest thing about Nehemiah's life: He did what he did only to please the Lord.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What is the greatest problem, greatest difficulty you can ever face? Sickness? Financial loss? Family problems? Do you agree the most difficult experience you will face may be success?
2. In Nehemiah's day, the people with money had the power to take advantage of others, and the poor people were devalued. What parallels to this situation are there in our society today?
3. Who are the people you are tempted to treat as less valuable than yourself? What can you do to keep from taking advantage of others or devaluing them?