



The Making of a Leader

Principles from the lives of men who became leaders

that changed the course of history.

Is it possible for one person to make a difference?

As much as your heart wants to say “yes,” your mind is probably saying, “No, not really. The problems are too large and too complex to be addressed and changed by just one person. The power of one. One person following hard after the one true God. One individual making a difference.

“The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” ~ Nehemiah 1:1-4

Key Truth: Leaders aren’t born - they are made. Great leaders are discontent with status quo and are willing to do what’s necessary to effect change!

Leaders are made, they are not born; and they are made just like anything else has ever been made in this country—by hard effort. And that’s the price that we all have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal. And despite what we say about being born equal, none of us really are born equal, but rather unequal. And yet the talented are no more responsible for their birthright than the underprivileged. And the measure of each should be what each does in a specific situation.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to be tolerant of a society which has sympathy only for the misfits, only for the maladjusted, only for the criminal, only for the loser. Have sympathy for them, help them, but I think it’s also time for us to stand up for and to cheer for the doer, and the achiever, one who recognizes a problem and does something about it, one who looks for something extra to do for his country, the winner, the leader! — Vince Lombardi

What can we learn from Nehemiah’s life that we can apply to our own lives?

- Nehemiah was grieved because of the distress of his people, the reproach they faced, the broken walls of Jerusalem, the gates burned with fire. Is there distress in your family, community, church, nation? Reproach? Anything “broken” in your life, family, community? Write it down. It’s good to verbalize it
- Is there anything you can learn from him and how he handled this heart-wrenching news? Note what he did first, then second, etc. Who did he go to before he talked with anyone else?
- Finally, are you willing to do it? Application consists not of mere knowledge but acting in the light of that knowledge. What do you think God might have you to do?
- When will you begin?



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