Chapter 4 Outline

PART 1
- Early Problems Faced by the Israelites
- Dealing with External Opposition

PART 2
- Handling Internal Divisions
- Concluding Thoughts

Dealing with External Opposition

- Learn from Nehemiah
  - Faced a variety of problems caused by external opponents
  - Learn the principles of dealing with external opponents
- Types of opposition discussed during Session 6
  - Facing down Disdain
  - Overcoming Threats
  - Overcoming Distractions
- Remaining types of opposition to be discussed
  - Seeing through Deception
Seeing Through Deceptions

- Nehemiah 6:5 – 9
  - Sanballat's deception
    - False accusation
    - Prediction of dire results
  - Nehemiah's Response
    - Discernment of lie
    - Confidence in God
    - Prayer to God for strength

- Implications
  - Need to rely on the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to see through deceptions
  - Know in whom you can trust
    - Nehemiah had the assurance in relationship with the king
      - Past service to the King (Neh. 1:11 b)
      - King's support (Neh. 2:9)

Seeing Through Deceptions (Continued)

- Nehemiah 6:10 – 14
  - Tobiah's & Sanballat's Spy
    - False warning of grave danger
    - False haven of safety
  - Nehemiah's Response
    - Confidence in God
    - Grounded in God's Word
    - Discernment of false prophecy
    - Prayer, delivering adversaries to God

- The “So What” for Godly Leaders
  - Combining the two passages
    - Confidence in God & in God's Word
    - Pray for strength, wisdom, & protection
    - Seek assistance from the Holy Spirit to discern deception

Seeing Through Deceptions (Continued)

- Joshua 9:3 – 15
  - Gibeonites devise an extremely elaborate deception
  - Jews suspicious, but not enough
  - Jews forgot God's Purpose for the Israelites
    - God separated the Israelites for Himself from the nations
    - Israelites had no reason to make a covenant with anyone
    - Making a covenant with anyone was unnecessary and dangerous
  - Jews forgot to take counsel with God

- Learning from Others' Mistakes
  - Check with God before making decisions
  - Not all decisions are necessary or urgent
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Dealing with Internal Divisions

- Learning from Nehemiah
  - Managing conflict between internal “factions”
  - Strong reliance upon God's Word
- Types of Internal Divisions to be discussed
  - Handling Internal Dissension
  - Dealing with Split Loyalties

Handling Internal Dissension

- Nehemiah 5:1 – 5 The Problem(s)
  - Families did not have enough to eat
  - Mortgaged land to buy food
  - Unable to redeem children given up as slaves to pay taxes
- Nehemiah 5:6 – 7 The Root Cause: Usury
  - The passage does not mention that Nehemiah prayed to God to get instructions – Why?
    - He already had God's instructions - the Law
    - Lev. 25:23 – 28 [Redemption of Land]
    - Lev. 25:35 – 38 [Law against Usury Exacted on the Poor]
  - Nehemiah was a leader, who trusted God's Word
    - Joshua 1:7 – 8
Handling Internal Dissension (Continued)

- Nehemiah 5:6 – 7 (continued)
  - Note: Nehemiah did not make a snap decision in anger
  - James 1:19 – 20
  - Key principle: It's okay to be angry, it's not okay to lash out at your subordinates
    - Self-control versus Holy Spirit control of emotions
    - Nehemiah rebuked the nobles & rulers in “private” first

- Nehemiah 5:8 – 13
  - Passage outlines personnel problem resolution
    - Clearly outline the problem before all
    - Define the deviation from policy
    - Define the corrective actions
    - Obtain concurrence
    - Ensure the corrective actions are implemented

Dealing with Split Loyalties

- Nehemiah 6:17 – 19
  - Nobles allied with Tobiah, an enemy of Nehemiah
  - Situations can arise where subordinates are allied with someone outside of the organization.
    - Passing information about you, unbeknownst to you
    - Receiving instructions counter to what you want done
    - This can happen when a leader steps into a situation where long standing relationships exist
  - Note that at this point, there is no guidance or indication that Nehemiah did anything.
    - Derive from what Nehemiah did throughout in dealing with external opposition … Pray!
      - For God's guidance to handle the relationships
      - For God's mercy and love
      - For God's protection
      - For God's wisdom

Dealing with Split Loyalties (Continued)

- Nehemiah 13:4 – 9
  - Nehemiah returned to Shushan to serve King Artexerxes in the 32nd year (372BC)
  - Eliashib, a priest in the temple
    - Allied with Tobiah, an enemy of God & Nehemiah
    - Set-up living quarters for Tobiah in the Temple of God
  - Implications of Eliashib’s actions
    - Failed to honor God.
    - Gave greater honor to a non-believer.
  - Nehemiah had to rectify the problem Eliashib caused
  - Bible did not record what Nehemiah did to Eliashib
    - Possible response: Neh. 13:28 – 29
    - Deliver to God to address
  - Nehemiah's Prayers: 13:14, 22b, 29, 31b
Dealing with Split Loyalties (Continued)

- Application to a Godly leader
  - Having team members with divided loyalties
    • Very difficult to handle
    • Can't fire them for not being loyal
  - Best action
    • Hold them up to God for God to address
    • Pray for them
    • Pray for God's love and patience to be exhibited in & through you
    • Be aware & alert – your actions may get to the wrong person

- Family situation
  • Be aware how you treat your siblings / parents, will be learned by your children
  • Husband & wife should be in agreement wrt rearing children
  • Pray for each other to have love and wisdom

Concluding Thoughts

- No matter what the difficulty, external or internal
  - Godly leaders turn to God first in prayer before doing anything
  - God's Word can provide insight into a difficult situation a Godly may be facing
    • Actual situation recorded in Bible may be very different
    • Principles behind the Godly leader's action, as recorded in the Bible have real application
  - Remember what the Preacher wrote:

    That which has been is what will be,
    That which is done is what will be done,
    And there is nothing new under the sun.
    Is there anything of which it may be said,
    "See, this is new"?
    It has already been in ancient times before us.
    (Eccl. 1:9 - 10)