

#9 “Hospitality and the Long Haul”

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah Study Sheet

Eastside Christian Fellowship: October 14, 2007

Nehemiah 5:14-19

5:14 From the day that I was appointed governor in the land of Judah, that is, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes – twelve years in all – neither I nor my relatives ate the food allotted to the governor. **5:15** But the former governors who preceded me had burdened the people and had taken food and wine from them, in addition to forty shekels of silver. Their associates were also domineering over the people. But I did not behave in this way, due to my fear of God. **5:16** I gave myself to the work on this wall, without even purchasing a field. All my associates were gathered there for the work.

5:17 There were 150 Jews and officials who dined with me routinely, in addition to those who came to us from the nations all around us. **5:18** Every day one ox, six select sheep, and some birds were prepared for me, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Despite all this I did not require the food allotted to the governor, for the work was demanding on this people. **5:19** Please remember me for good, O my God, for all that I have done for this people.

- ✍ How did Nehemiah show hospitality in the above passage?
- ✍ What did he do differently than the previous governors?
- ✍ Why do you think he did this? What were the benefits for the city, the community? What did it cost Nehemiah?
- ✍ What are the leadership principles we learn from this?

Read Romans 12:3-16

- ✍ What role does hospitality play in all that is mentioned in this passage?
- ✍ How would you define hospitality?
- ✍ What all does hospitality encompass in a Christians life?
- ✍ Would you consider yourself a pretty hospitable person?
- ✍ In what ways could you strengthen that part of your spiritual walk?

Read I Peter 4:7-11.

- ✍ Why was Peter encouraging hospitality?
- ✍ How should hospitality be carried out?
- ✍ What is hospitality born out of? (vs. 8)
- ✍ What can widespread hospitality do for a church community?
- ✍ What are ways in which your home group can show hospitality to those inside and outside your group?

“A Long _____ in the same _____” (a title to a book by Eugene Peterson)

The phrase defines what drives Nehemiah in his focus and direction. He and his men put their efforts solely on the rebuilding of the wall and the passions of the people.

- ✍ In what ways does our culture encourage “short obedience in various directions”? In other words, do we live in a time where longevity in focus is awarded or do we tend to live in a fast food era where everything is expected now! Discuss.

This phrase, “Long obedience in the same direction”, defines what the life of a Christ follower entails.

- ✍ Define what this phrase means in a practical way.
- ✍ How did Jesus model “long obedience in the same direction”?
- ✍ How have you seen long obedience in the same direction played out in your own life?
- ✍ What are some of the blessings you have seen because you have practiced this?
- ✍ Who do you admire for long obedience in the same direction? Why?