

Six Marks of Lay Leadership

(Sunday Evening, November 14, 2010)

“This is a practical book (Nehemiah) about leadership” (Charles R. Swindoll, *Hand Me Another Brick*, xi).

1. Are Leaders Born Leaders?

Martin Lloyd Jones believed that God equipped a preacher to speak at birth as a natural ability and if you did not have the natural ability to communicate then God would not call you to preach.

2. Are Leaders Made?

Vince Lombardi, the great NFL foot ball coach of the Green Bay Packers said, “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.”

3. Are Leaders Made When Born Again?

- A. There is a spiritual gift of leadership (Roman 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28)
- B. There is also the spiritual gift of helps, mercy, teaching, etc.

4. Who is a Leader?

Chuck Swindoll, “What do we mean when we use the word leadership? Influence. You lead someone to the measure you influence him.

J. Oswald Sanders “Leadership is influence, the ability of one person to influence others.”

John Maxwell, “Leadership is influence.”

5. Where Do We Start? Reading books on leadership

J. Oswald Sanders’ “Spiritual Leadership”

John Maxwell’s “The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership”

Henry Blackaby’s “Spiritual Leadership”

Nehemiah’s “A Manual for Lay Leadership”

6. What is the Context for Nehemiah’s Leadership?

- A. Under King Solomon the Nation of Israel divided (1 Kings 11:11)
- B. The Northern Tribes were taken captive in 722 BC by Assyria
- C. The Southern Tribes were taken captive in 586, 597, and 605 BC (2 Chronicles 36:19)
- D. God used three leaders to restore His people to the land and Himself
 - 1) Zerubbabel the Builder in Ezra 1-6

2) Ezra the Teacher in Ezra 7-10

3) Nehemiah the Layman in Nehemiah 1-13

7. What Kind of Leader was Nehemiah?

A. Nehemiah was not a preacher (priest or prophet)

B. Nehemiah worked a secular job (1:11 “the cupbearer)

C. Nehemiah as a layman and volunteer exerted great influence