# **Vision - New Beginnings - Pt 12 - Leadership 101**

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New Beginnings / Leadership; Care; Listen; Hear; Fasting; Prayer / Nehemiah; Nehemiah 1; Nehemiah 2:1; Nehemiah 2:12; Luke 12:10–12

# **Vision - New Beginnings - Pt 12 - Leadership 101**

**Who is this fellow Nehemiah?**

**His name in Hebrew means “Yahweh Comforts” - As we mentioned last week “Comforter” is one of the names of The Holy Spirit, Jesus describes in** [**John 14:16**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn14.16) “16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper (Comforter, Gr. Parakletos),** that He may abide with you forever—”

Nehemiah is a Jew who based on his age would have never stepped foot in Jerusalem, having been born in the exile (70 years captivity [2 Chronicles 36:18-21](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Ch36.18-21)) (15 years to rebuild the temple [Ezra 1 - 6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ezr1-6)) (58 years to Ezra [Ezra 7-10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ezr7-10)) (13 years to this passage)

Nehemiah was a **“cup bearer”** A prestigious position in the royal courts of the ancient Near East. The cupbearer would serve wine ([Gen. 40:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge40.13)), but also tasted it as protection against poison.

**It is assumed Nehemiah was a Eunuch -** Simple description since we are in mixed company was that Nehemiah was **“Celibate”** Jesus described this in His teaching in:

[**Matthew 19:11-12**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt19.11-12) “11 But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: 12 For there are **eunuchs who were born thus** from their mother’s womb, and there are **eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men**, and there are **eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake**. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.””

Nehemiah was not married, as was the case for most all of the servants of the King who were foreigners. This was the custom of the Babylonians, Assyrians and Persians. Another example of this could be Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego) where all Eunuch’s in service to the King of Babylon - Nebuchadnezzar.

**Anyone who influences others is a leader.**

**Chuck Swindoll**

**Every Believer - Every Follower of Christ is called to be a leader, an influencer**

**Leaders/Influencers have several key characteristics in an ever increasing, ever growing fashion:**

#### 1) Leader’s “CARE”

[**Nehemiah 1:2**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.2) “2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; **and I asked them concerning** the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and **concerning** Jerusalem.”

[1 Corinthians 12:25](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co12.25) “but that the members should have the same **care for one another.**”

[Philippians 2:4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Php2.4) “4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

#### 2) Leader’s Listen, Leaders “HEAR”

[Nehemiah 1:3-4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.3-4) “3 **And they said to me**, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.” 4 So it was, **when I heard these words,** that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

Half-eared listening, “despises the brother and is only waiting for a chance to speak and thus get rid of the other person.” “Just as love to God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

[Proverbs 18:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Pr18.13) “13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.”

#### 3) Leaders “HURT”

[Nehemiah 1:4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.4) “4 So it was, when I heard these words, **that I sat down and wept, and mourned** for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

Romans 12:15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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#### 4) Leaders “INTERCEDE”

[Nehemiah 1:4-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.4-6) “4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was **fasting and praying** before the God of heaven. 5 And I said: “I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may **hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants**, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned.”

[1 Timothy 2:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Ti2.1) “1 Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, prayers, **intercessions**, and giving of thanks **be made for all men**,”

Intercede: Stand in the gap - [Ezekiel 22:30](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze22.30) “30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and **stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.**”

Ezekiel is prophesying to Jerusalem at the time of the Babylonian exile - 150 years before Nehemiah: Its not a picture of the physical wall, but a Spiritual one: Who will entreat me for the sake of the people. One of Nehemiah’s first actions is to “Stand in the Gap spiritually for the people” before Physically building the wall with the people.

God calls His people to Prayer - to Intercede for the brokenness of the world around them:

We pray that our hearts would be broken for the things that Breaks God’s heart: What Breaks God’s heart - Broken people

[Romans 9:1-3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro9.1-3) “1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 **that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh**,”

Paul’s broken hearted over the lostness of those who are his brethren in the flesh, this coming in his letter right on the heals of:

[Romans 8:37-39](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro8.37-39) “37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

[Nehemiah 1:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.11) “11 O Lord, I pray, please **let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant**, **and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name**; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

#### 5) Leader’s are NOT “HASTY”

[Proverbs 8:12-13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Pr8.12-13) “12 “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

**Prudence** - the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason

**Prudent** - marked by wisdom or judiciousness

**Patience** - not hasty or impetuous

[Nehemiah 1:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.1) “1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in **the month of Chislev**, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel,”

**Chislev is in our month of November-December**

[Nehemiah 2:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.1) “1 **And it came to pass in the month of Nisan**

**Nisan is in our months of March - April**

Four months Nehemiah spent seeking the Lord before action

Four months of Intercession v4-6

Four Months of fasting and prayer v4

Four months of Night and Day prayer v6

There are times when we need to make timely decisions because the need is timely, but I have found in my life, most of the time we do not “Wait upon the Lord”

[Isaiah 40:31](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is40.31) “31 But those who **wait on the Lord** Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

[Psalm 27:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps27.14) “14 **Wait on the Lord;** Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; **Wait, I say, on the Lord!”**

[**Isaiah 64:4**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is64.4) “4 For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, **Who acts for the one who waits for Him.**”

[Psalm 40:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps40.1) “1 I **waited patiently for the Lord**; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.”

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How do we become better influencers in our community? How do we become better leaders?

Nehemiah pragmatically shows us these 5 principles, 5 characteristics we should be growing in in our lives:

1. We Care

2. We Listen

3. We Hurt

4. We Intercede

5. We Wait on the Lord to reveal how we should respond