



Leadership Principles from Nehemiah
Lesson 6: What do the Gates Represent?

1. The gates

Nehemiah 3:1-6

Nehemiah is taking you around the wall and giving you the names of the people that worked on each section.

Where there is a gate, he also tells you the names of the people that worked on that particular gate.

There were ten gates in wall surrounding Jerusalem.

This chapter is all about the different gates and the names of all of the people who worked on them.

We must understand that there is nothing in the Bible that is just there by chance or accident. It is written to instruct us.

It could have been a lot simpler. God could have written chapter three like this – “A lot of people built the wall and there were ten gates.”

Why all of these names? Why all of the gates? – They are there for a reason.

What are gates used for? – Gates are used for coming in and going out. You pass through them.

Gates represent life. There is activity in the gates because there is life.

Each of the gates is named for a reason.

We are going to look at each gate and what it means to the life of a believer and leader.

2. Sheep Gate

The Sheep Gate speaks of _____

John 10:14

If you are going to be the leader God wants you to be your personal relationship with Jesus must come first. It has to be the most important thing.

You will never have the relationship with God that you want to have if you neglect your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The enemies of Jerusalem burned that gate.

The enemy will try to do the same with you. He will try to get you to neglect your personal relationship with Jesus.

James 4:8**Psalm 27:4**

That is the _____ gate for the believer and the leader.

3. The Fish Gate

Why do you need to have this gate in your life?

Mark 1:17

Jesus said He would make us “fishers of men.”

If you are going to be the leader God wants you to _____

Even if you do not consider yourself an evangelist, a good leader tells others about Jesus. You must decide to go in and out of this gate in your life.

John 4:35**4. The Old Gate**

We go in and out the Old Gate because we need to remember that there is an old life that is not far away from us that is trying to pull us back.

If you are going to be the leader God wants you to be you must decide never to go back to your old life.

But this gate also reminds us where we came from. It is good for a leader to remember where they came from, especially when God begins to use you in great ways.

5. The Valley Gate

Psalm 23:4

As you lead people you must be aware that you are going to go through tests and trials.

When you get to a place where you want to give up or you say, “I just cannot take it anymore” – what are you going to do?

Remember that God is with you and _____

6. The Dung Gate

Philippians 3:8 – King James Version

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

The Apostle Paul wrote that the works of the flesh and our own human attempts for righteousness are like dung.

The Dung Gate speaks of the flesh, our sin nature, and our attempts at works to please God.

If you want to be the leader God wants you to be you need to be willing and actively removing the dung from your life (works of the flesh).

7. The Fountain Gate

John 7:38

If you want to be the leader God wants you to be you must have _____

We have to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us. He has to be an important part of our lives if we want to lead people properly.

8. The Water Gate

In the Bible, water represents the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:26

If you are going to be the leader God wants you to be you must _____

You must learn how to have the Word of God speak to you.

Watch out! The devil will want to burn that gate down.

9. The Horse Gate

The Horse Gate was the gate the armies went out of when they went to fight.

If you are going to be the leader God wants you to be you are going to have to _____

You cannot be passive. You are going to have to fight, rebuke, and stand firm.

God did not give you armor to wear to a social event. He gave you armor to fight.

Ephesians 6:11-13

Everybody knows that a strategy of war is for the enemy to take out leaders first.

As a leader you are going to have to fight for your marriage.

There may be times that you have to fight for your family or for your health. But you must be willing to fight.

10. The East Gate

The Bible tells us that it is through the East Gate that Jesus will return.

1 John 3:2, 3

This tells us that if we have our hope in the return of Jesus we will be purified.

If you are going to be the leader God wants you to be you are going to have to decide to live a pure life every day.

Nobody knows when Jesus is going to return. Even Jesus does not know when He is coming back.

Why do you think the Father has not told the Son? – The Son would then have to share that information with us.

If we knew the day Jesus was going to return, most of us would wait until the day before to get things right.

How are we supposed to live? – You live every day as if Jesus is coming that day. That will keep you pure.

11. The Miphkad Gate

This is the gate where people went to be judged.

You must pass through the Gate of Judgment if you want to be the leader God wants you to be.

1 Corinthians 11:31

Psalm 32:3-5

You will never be the Christian or leader God wants you to be if you _____

A leader realizes that they cannot separate their “church life” from their “personal life”.

The two of them are intertwined.

Nehemiah the leader was the same man as Nehemiah in his personal life. The same needs to be true for every leader.

As you build your personal life and pass through these different gates, it is important to understand that God is also developing you as a leader.