

Friday (continued)

What is Paul saying about wealth: That it's wrong? That it's a temptation? That it's a great responsibility?

Considering the fact that Americans are rich in comparison to the rest of the world (although probably most of us feel like times are tight right now) what does this verse teach I should do with my wealth?

How does this week's memory verse tie into this idea?

How can the idea of "delayed gratification" play a huge positive role in someone's spiritual life?

Today ask God to show you areas of your own life where you need to practice delayed gratification rather than enjoy immediate rewards. Ask Him for the power to persevere!

Saturday

Look back over your message notes and finish any devotions you may have missed. Please spend some time in prayer today specifically asking God for a powerful church service this weekend where lives will really change! Thanks!

Prayer Updates

Home with the Lord

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Guy Routley in the loss of his precious wife, **Tamara Routley**, who always considered herself "his greatest fan" in his ministry pursuits. Please keep their daughter Lisa Powell and their sons Brandon and Eric close in prayer as well. A celebration of Tamara's life is planned for Sunday, March 2 at 3pm at TLC with a reception following.

Please remember Hannah Deutsch and her family whose grandmother, **Ruth Neal**, is now present with the Lord. Ruth was a wonderful saint, who at the age of 94 continued to faithfully serve God through her prayer ministry, leading Bible studies and others to Jesus.

Hospitalized & surgeries this past week...

Bailey Ryan – sports head injury

Charles "Bobby" Spann – lung & heart disease, breathing problems

Charles Whitney – breathing problems

Grant Smith – fell, did not break any bones

Jane Dawson – surgery

Norma Anderline – complications from double pneumonia

Shirley Ellis – RCU

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Doreen Bartels, Elaine Pryor, Louise Barton, Lucille Bonds, Ralph Bingham

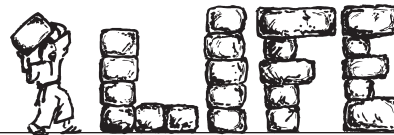
Hospice care: Adrienne Bresnahan-Gomes & JD Jacobsen

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400.



REBUILDING MY



PART 5:

The Temptations of Success

February 16 & 17, 2008 • René Schlaepfer

"I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah..." *Nehemiah 5:14a*

Three Temptations of Success

1. I'll be tempted to misuse my _____

"But the earlier governors — those preceding me — placed a **heavy burden** on the people and took **forty shekels of silver** from them..." *Nehemiah 5:15a*

2. I'll be tempted to profit from my _____

"...**in addition** to food and wine (the governor's food allowance)." *Nehemiah 5:15b*

3. I'll be tempted to abuse my _____

"Their **assistants** also **lorded it over** the people." *Nehemiah 5:15c*

KEY CONCEPT: Leadership is not _____ !

Five Ways to Resist the Temptations of Success

1. Deepen _____

"**Out of reverence for God** I did not act like that." *Nehemiah 5:15b*

• Realize God _____

• Realize God _____

2. Determine _____

"...From the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year — twelve years — **neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor.**" *Nehemiah 5:14*

3. Direct _____

"**Instead I devoted myself to the work on the wall.** All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land at all." *Nehemiah 5:16*

4. Develop _____

"Furthermore, **150 Jews and officials ate at my table as well as those who came to us** from the surrounding nations. Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, **I never demanded the food** allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people." *Nehemiah 5:17-18*

5. Delay

“Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.” *Nehemiah 5:19*

“Moses preferred to suffer with God’s people rather than to enjoy sin for a little while ...because **he kept his eyes on the future reward.**” *Hebrews 11:24-25 (GN)*

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care... not greedy for money but eager to serve, not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, **you will receive the crown of glory** that will never fade away.” *1 Peter 5:2-4*

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, **to be rich in good deeds**, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way **they will lay up treasure for themselves** as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Am I more interested in pleasing _____ or pleasing _____ ?

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible readings based on this week’s message

Monday

Please read Nehemiah 5:14-19. What stands out to you most in this part of Nehemiah’s story and why?

Why do you think success can so easily become a temptation?

How have you seen this happen in your life? What is one thing that you learned from Nehemiah’s story that can help you battle that temptation?

Thank God today for the practical help found in the Bible. Talk to God about the ways you’re tempted by success. Ask God to help you develop a godly attitude and heart about leadership and success.

Tuesday

Please reread Nehemiah 5:15 & Proverbs 21:30-31. In what way did Nehemiah use his position, privilege and power to benefit the people?

In what area of your life or relationships do you have position, privilege or power? How are you tempted to abuse that?

According to Proverbs (and many other places in the Bible) with whom does all power, position and privilege ultimately lie? How does this encourage you? How can this help you when you’re tempted to misuse your success?

Thank God today that there is “no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against Him.” Thank Him for the areas of your life where He’s granted you success. Confess to Him the ways you’ve used your success selfishly. Pray that your life and success will be a blessing to those around you.

Wednesday

Please read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Hebrews 13:7-6 & 1 Peter 5:1-4. How do these verses describe the actions and attitudes of a leader?

In your life, who has been this type of leader? How have they impacted you?

When I read these verses, I’m motivated; I want to be that type of leader! How do these verses motivate you?

Write two specific things you will do to apply these verses this week:

- 1.
- 2.

Thank God today for the opportunity to grow. Pray for those you lead. Ask God to give you a soft heart towards them and a desire to be a godly leader. Pray that your life will be an example and encouragement to those you lead.

Thursday

Read Nehemiah 5:18. What does this verse tell you about the menu you should offer when entertaining guests? Just kidding! While of course we are not expected to offer our guests an entire ox and several sheep every night, there is an underlying current of generosity and hospitality in evidence here.

Read Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:9, 3 John 1:8, Luke 14:12-14. Does it surprise you that the kind of spirituality God wants us to have involves not just private devotions but also hospitality?

Why do you suppose this is so important to God? How does this advance His kingdom?

How well do you practice hospitality — not just going out with others, but actually inviting them to your home?

This week, go to “hospitality school”: Ask the friends you have who are good at this to teach you. What is the key? How often do they have people over? How do they clean their homes before guests come over? How do they afford it?

Thank God for those who show you hospitality. Ask Him to help you show the same to others. Think of someone in your neighborhood who is currently not connected to a church. Ask God to help you see chances to have them over to your house.

Friday

Look back over your notes from last weekend. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How does this parallel what Nehemiah practices at the end of Nehemiah 5?

over 



Memory Verse

“Store up for yourselves treasures on in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:20