



Learning How to Handle a Promotion  
Nehemiah 5:14-19  
October 1, 2017

**Merriam Webster Dictionary:**

**Adversity means, hardship, or a state of serious or continued difficulty or misfortune.**

**Chuck Swindoll:**

“Adversity can come in the form of heartache, of unhappy employment or the discouragement of losing a job. It can suddenly reduce your status, force you into selling your home, or make you start over in another occupation that has no frills or thrills. Even worse, adversity can mean having to stand in line for an unemployment check.”

**Thomas Carlyle:**

"Adversity is hard on a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity. Few people can live in the lap of luxury and maintain their spiritual, emotional, and moral stability. Sudden elevation often disturbs balance, which leads to pride and a sense of self-sufficiency—and then, a fall.”

*Psalm 75:5-7 (NKJV) Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.’<sup>6</sup>For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. <sup>7</sup>But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.*

*Nehemiah 5:14 NKJV Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions.*

*Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

**John Butler:**

“When born-again people are promoted to places of increased leadership in their companies, they will have underneath them individuals who rejoice because of their righteous rule. How much better is this than to have the wicked promoted, who would bring with them all the tentacles of corruption and compromise.”

**Nehemiah faced four major challenges as governor:**

1. With every promotion, there are certain privileges.

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**Takeaway:**

**Wise leaders never take advantage of their special benefits! There is nothing wrong with using a perk, but we are to never take advantage of them.**

**Chuck Swindoll:**

**“The private life of the promoted leader is under the constant attack of the devil. Many individuals in moving from one economic class to the next have been given the privilege of increased privacy. But many of these same people have floundered in their new freedom and slipped down the moral tube.”**

2. With every promotion, policies are threatened.

*Nehemiah 5:15 (NKJV) But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God.*

The former governors did three things:

- A. They laid burdens on the people.
- B. They accepted bribery.
- C. They promoted their personal servants to dominate leadership positions.

**John Butler:**

**“When you’re promoted, you’ll not only have to deal with added privileges, but invariably you will face the pressure of former policies.”**

3. With every promotion, leaders have to deal with pride and popularity.

*Nehemiah 5:17 (NKJV) And at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us.*

*Nehemiah 5:18 (NKJV) Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also, fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this, I did not demand the governor’s provisions because the bondage was heavy on this people.*

**Chuck Swindoll:**

**“The fire in the kitchen stove never went out. He had to feed thousands of people every month. That’s a lot of food! Yes, Nehemiah was well known. He was certainly a sought-after political figure, a very public man. High-ranking public officials from surrounding nations were his dinner guests. But Nehemiah never lost sight of the project. His belly did not block his vision. He maintained a sharp eye that refused to be dulled by people coming and going. Some leaders can do that and some can’t.”**

4. With every promotion, people are affected.

*Nehemiah 5:18b (NKJV) Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor’s provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people.*

*Nehemiah 5:19 (NKJV) Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.*