SERIES: UNCERTAINTY – *Using Our Influence To Lead Through*

"Influence In Authority"

Nehemiah 5:6-18, John 13:12–15

Tony Toth, Jan 24, 2021

I. UNCERTAIN TIMES

-We Don't Have All The ANSWERS
-We Don't Always KNOW What To Do
-We Are MAKING IT UP As We Go Along
-Uncertainty Is Why We Need LEADERS
-We Can All Lead In Our SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

II. HAVING INFLUENCE IN OUR AUTHORITY

A. POSITIONAL Authority

John 13:13 *"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am."*

B. MORAL Authority

John 13:15 *"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."*

III. TRUSTWORTHY AUTHORITY

A. In Alignment With God's VALUES

Nehemiah 5:*9 "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?"*

B. What We SAY And What We MEAN

Nehemiah 5:12–13 *Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised… And the people did as they had promised.*

C. EXPECT OF YOURSELF What You Expect Of Others

Nehemiah 5:15 *"The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God."*

D. Avoid ENTITLEMENT Thinking

Nehemiah 5:18 *"Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people."*

IV. PROTECTING OUR INFLUENCE

A. Evaluate Our RESPONSE To Authority

B. Evaluate Our DRIFT Towards Entitlement

C. Evaluate Our QUICKNESS To Fess Up

THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

1. Leveraging Influence. Discuss this week with family and friends what comes to mind when you hear "People are usually defined by their FINAL Chapter, not their FINEST Chapter."

2. A Leadership Prayer. Pray this prayer every morning and night this week: "Heavenly Father, give me the wisdom to **know** what's right and the courage to **do** what's right, even when it **costs** me."