January 30

No Ego Trips

Ezra the priest brought the scroll of the law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand.

Nehemiah 8:2

Nehemiah led the people in rebuilding the walls. But notice that he stepped aside to let Ezra do the job he was better qualified for, that of handling the Book of the Law. And while Ezra was reading the Scriptures, where was Nehemiah? He was standing among the people, listening to and learning from the same words and truths.

He could do this because he didn’t care who received the credit. He wasn’t trying to be everything to everybody. This was not an ego trip for him. He chose good men to help in the work. He used the strengths of others, and in so doing he developed their strengths more. Just think what an encouragement Nehemiah must have been to Ezra, and vice versa!

This is a great example for all leaders. Learn to be a follower at times, not always the big cheese.

Making It Personal

What do I learn from Nehemiah and Ezra’s example?