

***Learning Leadership from Nehemiah***, by Dave Kraft, Dave Kraft.org, 2015.  
(22 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Every day you have a choice to make in your walk with God and your walk with other people. You can choose to be a thermometer or you can choose to be a thermostat. Thermometers simply indicate what is going on around them. Thermostats, on the other hand, influence what is going on around them. [page 11]
2. The late J. Sidlow Baxter says about the lessons in Nehemiah, “There is no winning without working, no opportunity without opposition, no triumph without trouble, no victory without vigilance.” [page 13]
3. #1 Christian Leaders are deeply concerned about the fulfillment of God’s plan and purpose. In dependence on Him, they do something about it. [page 15]
4. Leadership always begins with God; the glorious truth that He’s up to something and wants me to be a part of it. True spiritual leadership is getting on my heart what God has on His. [page 16]
5. #2 Leaders have big dreams. They have divinely inspired desires birthed from dissatisfaction with the status quo. [page 19]
6. #3 Leaders have clarity about what they want to see happen. [page 23]
7. #4 Leaders inspire and motivate followers to action in order to achieve a God-given vision. [page 29]
8. #5 Christian leaders understand to whom they belong, whom they serve, and who gives lasting success. [page 35]
9. It was very clear to Nehemiah that simply relying on his leadership skills would not carry the day. He understood at a profound and deep level that God was sovereign over the vision He gives. He understood that he and those on his team were, first and foremost, servants of the Lord. It was crystal to him that because of who the Lord was and their identity in Him, they would succeed. “Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.” (Zechariah 4:6 NIV) [page 36]
10. I have a definition of leadership that I build on in my book, *Leaders Who Last*. In part, it reads “A Christian leader is a humble, God-dependent, team-playing servant of God.” This is so foundational to lasting Spirit-led success. It takes humility before the Lord as I use (but not rely on) my own skills or experience to achieve victory; totally depending on God for lasting results and not doing it by myself. Nehemiah says, we will build, not *I* will build. He clearly saw himself as part of a team that would accomplish the vision God had given. [page 36-37]

11. #6 Leaders should expect opposition in various forms. [page 40]
12. Eric Geiger said, “If you want to keep everybody happy don’t be a leader; sell ice cream.” [page 43]
13. #7 Leaders artfully combine the spiritual and the human in getting the job done. [page 47]
14. In many cases I don’t need more information to know the will of God, but more courage to do the will of God. Good leaders have a bias for action and don’t unnecessarily wait, operating out of fear masked as spirituality. [page 49]
15. #8 Good leaders are willing to confront people when necessary. [page 51]
16. #9 Leaders facilitate respect, understanding, and a genuine heart response to God’s word. [page 57]
17. #10 Leaders regularly rehearse organizational history and victories, reminding people of God’s power, promises, character and faithfulness.” [page 63]
18. As aa leader, let me encourage you to regularly take time to allow people to see the fingerprints of God on things happening in the last week, month, or quarter. [page 65]
19. #11 Leaders help followers in establishing and maintaining commitments to God. [page 67]
20. Whether we are thinking of a sports leader, a business leader, or a spiritual leader, we are always at our best when we are calling followers to their best, not letting them get away with sloppy standards and sloppy living. A leader should not be afraid to remind people what the organization or group values are and then hold followers accountable for those values. [page 69]
21. Great bosses not only inspire and encourage, they hold employees as well as themselves accountable for meeting performance, the other leadership principles are toothless. [page 70]
22. People are starving for encouragement and affirmation. Followers are hungry for leaders to express appreciation and affirmation, but seldom hear it. Employees need it from their employers, kids need it from their parents, spouses need it from each other; but many don’t hear enough celebratory words. We hear words when we mess up or don’t come through as we should have or could have, but words of celebration and affirmation are strangely missing when we do something well. A sincere “thank you, I appreciated that” goes a long way. We can do better as leaders, we must do better as leaders! [page 76]