



***The Stirring of a Leader's Heart***  
**Nehemiah 1:1-11**

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It is often said that everything rises and falls on leadership. For this reason, every generation needs good leaders. Where there is a crisis of leadership there will be a crisis in the land (Pr. 11:14a).

As we begin this study on leadership, we must understand the difference between a leader and a demagogue. A true leader leads by righteous conviction, but a demagogue leads only by popular opinion.

In our text, God begins to rise up a true leader named Nehemiah whose heart was stirred for a righteous cause.

**Background:** King Cyrus Decree (539 BC) / Exiles Return... Under Zerubbabel (536 BC) / Under Ezra (457 BC) / Under Nehemiah (444 BC)

**The Main Thought...**

➤ *Not everyone is born a leader, but you can become a leader when God stirs your \_\_\_\_\_ for a righteous cause.*

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ concern for a righteous cause (v. 1-4a).

1 Sam. 17:29

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ belief in the power of prayer (v. 4b-11a).

Deut. 30:2-3; 2 Chron. 7:14; Esther 4:12-17

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ desire to make a difference (v. 11a).

Pr. 29:18a

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ example of godly character (v. 11b).

As a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, Nehemiah was a loyal, caring, respectful, humble, wise, and noble cupbearer to the king.

Dan. 3:16-18; 6:10

**Evaluating your leadership potential...**

- *Are you growing in righteous \_\_\_\_\_?*
- *Are you sensing a righteous \_\_\_\_\_?*