

## LEADERSHIP MATTERS: DECISION MAKING

"There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision." WILLIAM JAMES

"Everyone makes decisions every day of their life. People are where they are today because of decisions they made in the past. Their present decisions determine what kind of people they will become in the future. Great leaders make great decisions and accomplish great feats. Average leaders make average decisions and have a maintenance tenure. Poor leaders make poor decisions that hurt the cause and harm their followers. The law of decision-making may be the most important, yet most difficult, law of leadership to learn and consistently apply."

DR. ELMER TOWNS

"Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide."

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

We have been studying the life of Nehemiah and his decision-making strengths. Even though he had a great task ahead of him and made progress in accomplishing this task, he also encountered problems.

*Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."* NEHEMIAH 2:17

*Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."* NEHEMIAH 4:10

*After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So I called a great assembly against them.* NEHEMIAH 5:7

As you move through this week and the future, I want to give you an action plan for making decisions.

### INVESTIGATE THE ISSUES

"It is a good thing to stand away from the canvas from time to time and take a full view of the picture." WINSTON CHURCHILL

"My athletes always follow my advice...unless it conflicts with what they want to do." LOU HOLTZ

*Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.* PROVERBS 11:14

*He who answers before listening--that is his folly and his shame.* PROVERBS 18:13

## IDENTIFY THE IMPORTANT

"If you wish to avoid making a decision, either send a memo... or set up a committee to conduct an 'in-depth' study."

EPSON'S COMPLETE OFFICE COMPANION

"There is great wisdom in reserving one's decisions as long as possible and until all the facts and forces that will be potent at moment are revealed." WINSTON CHURCHILL

### ITEMIZE THE IMPACT

*Fools will believe anything, but the wise think about what they do.*

PROVERBS 14:15 (NCV)

### INITIATE THE ACTION

"Take time to deliberate, but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in."

ANDREW JACKSON

### WHY DO WE HESITATE?

#### • Fear Factors

"You cannot win this war by sitting still." WINSTON CHURCHILL

#### • Finishing Touches

"Do not let the better become the enemy of the good."

WINSTON CHURCHILL

#### • Future Issues

"Only one link in the chain of destiny can be handled at a time." WINSTON CHURCHILL

*Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.* PROVERBS 27:1 (NLT)

*So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.* MATTHEW 6:34

*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.* MATTHEW 6:33

### IMPROVE YOUR INSIGHTS

"I would rather be right than consistent." WINSTON CHURCHILL

Just because you made one decision at one time does not mean that future progress and possibility will not change the course of that decision. Learn along the way and be open to changing your mind in the presence of new facts.

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.* PROVERBS 14:12

