

# **Ridin' High Cowboy Church**

**8771 FM 35**

**Union Valley/Royse City, TX**

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

## **November 13, 2016 – A Message to the President**

Intro: At my desk at work, people who visit sit to my left. If I'm wearing a short-sleeved shirt, people will ask about the scar on my arm. I began to tell stories ... broke the bone riding bulls in Cheyenne, shark bite in Hawaii, breaking up a fight between two pit bulls, sky diving accident...

The bad thing is that these stories started circulating. I had to go back and tell the truth, because of today's principle.

On Tuesday, a new President was elected.

Under authority of someone you didn't respect, you had to do what they said to keep your job or stay in their house but you knew they said one thing and did another. They were in charge but they lacked moral authority.

Positional Authority – authority based on Title only.

Moral Authority – define that (what you say and do are always in alignment) you may not always agree with people but if they have moral authority, you respect them. You know they really believe what they are saying. They have influence that is above even the authority the position gives them.

Americans have little tolerance for a lack of moral authority in two areas (politics and religion). We expect their life and lifestyle to match their words. The reason many people don't vote or go to church is they have seen a lack of moral authority...business sports, relationships have a little gray area.

### **Nehemiah 5: 6-19**

Nehemiah was appointed the governor of Judah, lived in Jerusalem his main job was to rebuild the wall around the city.

Economy in Shambles

Neighboring countries sent money lenders into Jerusalem to lend them money at terrible interest rates. Some of the rich Jews joined them in this, even slavery of kids, they ended up with a small group of people owning most of the country as well as foreign owners, other countries know we are about to sink and that's what they want. Jews were never supposed to charge Jews interest.

***6 When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them 8 and said, “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. 9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”***

Side Note: We don’t want to be dependent on foreign loans or products... The US is \$19 Trillion in debt, \$165K per taxpayer, \$2.5Billion a day or \$3Million dollars a minute and much of it is to foreign countries and many of our leaders have stock in the foreign countries we are going in debt to...

***10 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! 11 Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them – one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.”***

***12 “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised.*** Nehemiah felt like us, he did not trust them...you promise God, take an oath (if you have to take an oath for something you promise something is wrong...

***13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied.”***

Shook out my robe...You can fool me and the people but God will shake out everything you have until you do the right thing. All the people said, Amen...Praise the Lord.

It’s like the President said to all the CEO’s – insurance, oil, healthcare – you fill in the blanks –stop making huge profits off the backs of our own citizens. Do what’s best for the country, not just yourself.

Imagine if our president had that much power...

They had nothing to say ...

***At this the whole assembly said, “Amen” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.***

How did Nehemiah have so much power with the people?

***14 Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year – twelve years – neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. 15 But the earlier governors – those preceding me – placed a heavy burden on the people and took forth shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God, I did not act like that. 16 Instead*** (instead of figuring out how I can get richer or my friends get richer, I just went to work) ***I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.***

This is huge. Nehemiah's campaign pledge was to rebuild the wall around the city and that is what he did every day. He set the example by working himself. Why? Nehemiah never asked the people to do anything he didn't do himself. He was always on the wall, you won't find Nehemiah in his office, but working on the wall.

We did not own any land. This was huge in this day. Land was all they had and Nehemiah had the right to buy whatever he wanted but he did not take advantage of his position to better himself. He knew where the good deals were.

***17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. 18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.***

***19 Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.*** (God I know you are watching you know my heart.)

Illustration: The story of Princess Diana...in 1981 Diana Spencer married Prince Charles. One billion people watched the wedding. She was shy, quiet and she got bad press for not being out front. Her title gave her influence and she began to work hard for charities. In 1996 she divorced Prince Charles and lost her title, but her influence grew while her husband's decreased. She had moral authority, not positional authority. She died in 1997 and 2.5 billion people watched her funeral, 2.5 times more than her wedding.

The reason Nehemiah could get so much done was he was a man who did what he said and he did it for 12 years...Imagine if our leaders could say that.

That's what we want in our leaders, teacher, Dads/Moms. People who lead with moral authority.

Application – this is what my neighbors are begging for, this is what a lost world wants to see...

So what do we do? We begin to do this ourselves (our actions have to match our words) and then expect it out of everyone around us all the way up to the President of the United States.

The God of the Bible is a God who has moral authority, he always does what he says. He said he loved you (John 3:16) and he sent Jesus to die on a cross to prove it. It's impossible to have moral authority without a relationship with Jesus Christ and a lifestyle guided by the principles in the Bible.