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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ
 Greater Hartford Chapter
 R HOUSE Restaurant
 May 2, 2012**

- Welcome! Opening prayer and introductions
- FCCI news/update
- Today's topic: **Leaders are Challengers!**

Throughout the Book of Nehemiah, we see a case study in effective Godly leadership. That's why Nehemiah is one of my favorite people in the Bible. This morning, we're going to focus on Chapter 13. In this passage, Nehemiah is clearly a CHALLENGER. Not for the sake of being a control freak, not for the sake of power or self-will. As he pursued his God-given vision for Jerusalem, God raised him up to hinder the decay, to exhort the people to obedience and progress. Let's walk through this chapter:

- V. 6: Bad things are happening when Nehemiah isn't there.
- V. 7-8: When he returns, he is grieved by what he sees.
- V. 8: He "casts off" Tobiah's stuff.
- V. 9: He "commands" the cleansing of the chambers.
- V. 11: He "contends" with the rulers to take care of the temple.
- V. 13: He "makes" treasurers.
- V. 15: He "testifies" against those who are selling on the Sabbath.
- V. 17: He "contends" with the nobles about profaning the Sabbath.
- V. 19: He "commands" that the gates be closed at night.
- V. 21: He "testifies" against merchants waiting to get inside Jerusalem on the Sabbath.
- V. 22: He "commands" the Levites that they should clean up and keep the gates.
- V. 25: He "contends" with those who had allowed intermarriage.

This was not an easy walk! It was exasperating and lonely:

- V. 14: "Remember me, Oh my God..."
- V. 22: "Remember me, Oh my God..."
- V. 29: "Remember me, Oh my God..."
- V. 31: "Remember me, Oh my God for good."

So, today, how's your leadership style? Are you too passive? Too eager to avoid confrontation? Or, are you too combative, always stirring up things but it's your own self-will that's in control instead of the Holy Spirit?

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of being a challenger?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being more willing to challenge in a Godly way?										
What specific actions can you take to be more adept at challenging those you lead?										

- Next meeting on May 16
- Upcoming events/news, including Jacob's Well this Friday with The Crossing
- Closing prayer