



2024

“Revival”

Rise Up and Build

The Book of Nehemiah

Study Guide

REVIVAL
Studies in The Book of Nehemiah

Calvary Men
Winter/Spring 2024
Schedule

Date	Lesson	Text
01.23.2024		Introduction
01.30.2024	1	Nehemiah Chapter 1
02.06.2024	2	Nehemiah Chapter 2
02.13.2024	3	Nehemiah Chapter 3
02.20.2024	4	Nehemiah Chapter 4
02.27.2024	5	Nehemiah Chapter 5
03.05.2024	6	Nehemiah Chapter 6
03.12.2024	7	Nehemiah Chapter 7
03.19.2024	8	Nehemiah Chapter 8
03.26.2024		Passion Week (Easter 03/31)
04.02.2024	9	Nehemiah Chapter 9
04.09.2024	10	Nehemiah Chapter 10
04.16.2024	11	Nehemiah Chapter 11
04.23.2024	12	Nehemiah Chapter 12
04.30.2024	13	Nehemiah Chapter 13

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The Book of Nehemiah
Introduction

I. Historical Perspective

Jerusalem reached its greatest peak under the reign of King Solomon, flowing with abundant wealth, strength, and resources. Solomon constructed the first Temple, which was filled with the very presence and glory of God. Israel was united and strong, invincible from the outside attack of other nations because of God's blessing upon them.

However, God had given Israel strong warnings not to compromise internally or with the other nations around them, for the consequences of such actions would be disastrous. Through Moses, God warned them of this danger in Deuteronomy 28:15 *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you."*

Despite this warning and the wonderful things with which God had blessed Israel, discontentment began to grow in Solomon's heart, fueled by turning from the Lord to fulfilling the desires of his flesh. Little by little, Solomon's heart was drawn away, and he pursued idolatry and immorality rather than God.

This cycle of degeneration soon infected the nation under him. In 931 B. C., the nation was divided because of foolish actions by his son, Rehoboam.

Compromise, immorality, and idolatry became rampant throughout the northern kingdom of Israel. This immorality and idolatry then spread to the southern kingdom of Judah, because of the failure of Solomon to lead the people righteously.

God sent His prophets repeatedly to warn both Israel and Judah, seeking to bring them to repentance and revival. Sadly, at last they had reached the point of no return. God allowed the very things He had warned about to come to pass, and in gruesome fashion. The first to fall was Israel and its capital Samaria, under the Assyrians in 722 B.C. (see 2 Kings 17).

Many years later (586 B.C., 2 Kings 25), God allowed the destruction of Jerusalem, and Judah was carried off by the Babylonians almost exactly as described in Deuteronomy 28. God used the Prophet Jeremiah to proclaim the "sentence" in view of their rebellion:

"I have spoken to you, rising early, and speaking, but you have not listened. And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. They said, 'Repent now everyone of

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his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever, do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' Yet you have not listened to me, says the Lord, that you might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.'" (Jeremiah 25:3 – 9, 11 NKJV).

The temple Solomon had so wonderfully built and dedicated to God's glory, and the very walls that they trusted in rather than trusting in God were torn down, destroyed, and burned. The people were cruelly mistreated by the Babylonians and were enslaved much as they had been in Egypt. God was using the fires of affliction to get their attention once again and to forever change the nation that He loved.

However, God did not forget His people, and out of His amazing grace, He began to act to fulfill His promise that He would bring them back to the Land after the seventy years were completed.

Isaiah recorded the heart of God toward them despite their rebellion: *"But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely, they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me."* (Isaiah 49:15-16 NKJV)

A major change of events occurred in 539 B.C. when the Medes and Persians, led by Cyrus the Great, overthrew Babylon. This set into motion the ability for the Jews to return to their land and have a new beginning. During the last part of the Babylonian Captivity, God began to fulfill His promises through the agency of four people of different backgrounds:

- Zerubbabel, a common man, who between about 538-515 B. C. led 50,000 people to return to the land of Israel.
- Esther, a common Jewish girl suddenly swept into the palace after winning a beauty contest, who preserved the survival of the Jewish people by her brave intervention with the king.

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- Ezra, a priest who led another 2,000 people back to the land and began to rebuild the temple around 457 B.C. Ezra was instrumental in bringing the Word of God back to the people.

- Nehemiah, a government employee who listened to the burden of his heart, and between about 446-425 B. C. rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, helping the people become established once again to what God desired of them. Also exhorting the people during this time were the post-exilic prophets, Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi. Satan of course opposed the efforts of these people every step along the way, but through God's intervention and the faithfulness of those He raised up, the work was accomplished, and ultimately Israel would become a nation for the second time.

II. Structural Perspective

The Book of Nehemiah reads like Nehemiah's journal of how God used him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and assisted the Jews to become reestablished there. Nehemiah most likely wrote the book himself. Some people do argue that Ezra wrote the book, since some ancient translations of the Old Testament have entitled it the Second Book of Ezra. Perhaps they both had a part in the book's writing.

Interestingly, the name Nehemiah means "The LORD [Yahweh] comforts," and that fits him well, as God used Nehemiah to comfort the people of Israel, during their distress.

The theme of this fascinating book is well summed up in Nehemiah 4:15-18: *"And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me."*

Building and guarding were equal priorities for this project, and they are essential for us as well if we are to live a life of victory over sin. Growing in our relationship with the Lord, we must be equipped for God to use us in service for His kingdom, we must be vigilant.

There will be many important truths that we'll examine over this course of study, enabling us to build our lives, guard our walk with the Lord, and grow as His *mighty men*.

Many of us may be like the Jews who were distressed and afflicted by the circumstances of their lives. There may be aspects of our lives that need

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reconstruction, or at least serious attention. We may personally need revival and renewal in our spiritual lives.

Through these lessons, God may even show you the purpose He has for you in His kingdom, if you respond to the calling and vision He has placed upon your heart.

Lastly, Nehemiah was certainly a man of prayer, and he serves as an example for us in effectively impacting our world through prayer.

Here are a few unique facts about the book of Nehemiah:

- Nehemiah contains the longest prayer in the Old Testament, beginning and ending with prayer, and at least twelve times prayer is offered up.
- Nehemiah is the most autobiographical book of the Old Testament history books.
- The decree of King Artaxerxes in Nehemiah 2:8 began Daniel's seventy weeks of events (described in Daniel 9:25-27). Thus, Nehemiah unknowingly had a major hand in the fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming Messiah.
- Despite his great example, Nehemiah isn't mentioned anywhere in the Bible outside of Ezra-Nehemiah. There are no quotes from the Book of Nehemiah in the New Testament.
- Nehemiah fasted and prayed over a four-month period before leading the people to rebuild the walls in only 52 days.
- The key word *build* is used about 24 times in this book.
- The Book of Nehemiah is not even halfway through our Old Testament, however it is the last historical record of Old Testament events. The final book, Malachi, was written just a few years later.

III. Personal Perspective

The Book of Nehemiah has some great spiritual lessons the Holy Spirit desires to teach us as men of God.

The first six chapters of the Book of Nehemiah have to do with the **reconstruction** of the walls of Jerusalem and the last seven chapters have to do with the **re-instruction** of the people of God.

Alan Redpath said, *"There is no winning without warfare; there is no opportunity without opposition; there is no victory without vigilance. For whenever the people of God say, "Let me arise and build," Satan says, "Let me arise and oppose."*

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I want you men to know that the victory is yours! Through this book you will learn how to build and battle ~ You will learn how to pray and pursue ~ You will learn how to plan and prepare ~ You'll learn how to face opposition and seize opportunity ~ Nehemiah is a great example of how to be a man of prayer, an effective leader and a man who understands God's Word as the strength and foundation of his life.

God can use you as a powerful influence in the lives of others. Especially, in your marriage and family. In your work and church. In your community and neighborhood. If you are a man who is living and walking in the Spirit, you are a powerful influence on those around you.

Today, in the secular and Christian world we have thousands of books on leadership and how to be an effective leader. Yet many times we overlook the Book of Nehemiah as a book on leadership and Nehemiah as a great leader with outstanding Godly qualities.

Our nation's 26th President for example, was a hard- charging leader. Throughout his days in office Theodore Roosevelt was either hated or admired. One of his admirers once said to him, "Mr. Roosevelt, you are a great man!"

In characteristic honesty he replied, "No, Teddy Roosevelt is simply a plain, ordinary man – highly motivated."

I think it is safe to say that this describes most great leaders, including Nehemiah: plain and ordinary, yet highly motivated!

When God puts His hand on a plain, ordinary person whom He has destined for leadership, that person is given gifts and abilities to match the plan God has for him. The Lord motivates that person by the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the goals, to keep on working, to keep on building and battling, with the sword in one hand and a brick in the other.

May God bless you as you study the Book of Nehemiah.

In His Grace,

Pastor Rick Myers

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Lesson 1

Please Read the Introduction to the Book of Nehemiah.

Please Read Nehemiah 1: 1 – 11

Introduction: Nehemiah was deeply grieved about the condition of Jerusalem, but he didn't just brood about it. After his initial grief, he prayed, pouring his heart out to God, and he looked for ways to improve the situation. Nehemiah put all his resources of knowledge, experience, and organization into determining what should be done. When tragic news comes to you, first pray. Then seek to move beyond grief to specific action that helps those who need it. When God's people pray, difficult decisions fall into proper perspective, and appropriate actions follow.

Life Application Study Bible

1. There is much we can learn from the first verse of Nehemiah. What do you see as some important information contained in this first verse?

2. What was the news Nehemiah heard from his brothers concerning the condition of Jerusalem according to Nehemiah 1: 2 – 3?
 - Why was it so devastating to Nehemiah that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and its gates burned with fire?

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3. How did Nehemiah take the news according to verse 4? Have you ever received news that broke your heart and burdened your soul? (Explain)

- What did Jesus say about *fasting* in Matthew 6: 16 – 18?

4. Nehemiah on hearing what was going on in Jerusalem and with his people was overcome with grief and sorrow. Immediately Nehemiah began to pray and fast. Why is prayer and fasting so important for a man who is serving God especially as a leader?

- According to Matthew 6: 5 – 8 how are we warned to “*don't be like*” when we pray? How did Jesus teach us to pray in Matthew 6: 9 – 15? Can you break down the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples?

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- What does James 5: 16 say about prayer?
5. Read Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1: 5 – 11. How did Nehemiah demonstrate the elements of effective prayer?
- What do you learn from Nehemiah's prayer? How would this change the way you pray?
6. What was the job of a king's cupbearer? Why would this job be considered so important? Please search online or use a Bible Dictionary for your answer and then write out the definition:

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Lesson 2

Please Read Nehemiah 2: 1 – 20

Introduction: Aware of how momentous the moment was, Nehemiah offered a quick prayer to the God of heaven. The king didn't even notice the slight pause, but God did. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). Nehemiah's prayer had to be short and silent, but it was effective. God heard and responded. What a comfort to realize He hears our silent prayers.

If you don't have a relationship with God, there is only one prayer He is interested in, and that is, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." But once you have prayed that prayer then as a child of God, you can offer up those quick prayers anytime you are in need. If you're in that right relationship, these short prayers can be dynamite.

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. After four months of praying and seeking the Lord, Nehemiah was looking for an opportunity to approach King Artaxerxes with his request. Being cupbearer to the king was held as a high position of trust, confidence, and constant access. According to Nehemiah 2: 1 – 4 what took place as Nehemiah served the king?
 - Nehemiah was terrified of what the king might do but he did not let fear stop him. Is there a task God wants you to do, but fear is holding you back?

2. It is interesting that during a conversation with the King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah pauses to pray a quick prayer before answering the King. Have you ever been in a situation where you could only think or whisper a quick prayer? Please explain your circumstances:

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- What do we learn from the following scriptures about prayer?
 - Psalm 145: 18 – 19

 - Isaiah 58: 8 – 9

 - Jeremiah 33: 3

 - Matthew 7: 7 – 8

- 3. Nehemiah 2: 6 is actually a very important verse in Bible prophecy. On March 14th 445 B.C. King Artaxerxes gave this command to rebuild and restore Jerusalem which was prophesied in the book of Daniel. What does this mean concerning the coming of the Messiah and what would happen to Him according to Daniel 9: 25 – 27?
 - What did Jesus do according to Luke 19: 28 – 44?

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- How does John 19: 17 – 30 fulfill Bible prophecy?
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4. Nehemiah was not only praying during those four months before speaking to the King, but he was planning with purpose before going to Jerusalem. What did Nehemiah ask the King found in Nehemiah 2: 7 – 8? Who did Nehemiah recognize as being in control?
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5. Beginning in Nehemiah 2: 13 – 16 Nehemiah takes us on a counterclockwise tour around Jerusalem. He went from gate to gate inspecting the broken walls and burned gates. Stumbling through the ruins of what was once a great and mighty fortress, imagine the grieving heart of Nehemiah. Now, think about the heart of God grieving over your sin and rebellion. Is your life in a state of ruin? Are there areas where the walls of spiritual protection once stood that have now been broken down? Has the mind-gate of your thought life been burned with the fires of this world? Have you made a careful inspection of your life?
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6. Once Nehemiah finished his inspection and had a prepared plan to present, he called a meeting with the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, and administrators. What did Nehemiah explain to them according to Nehemiah 2: 16 – 17?

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- What words of wisdom do we learn from Proverbs 16: 1 – 3, 9 and 19: 2?

7. Read verses 19 – 20. The Hebrew term for *mock*, (scorn, scoffed) means “to stammer, to stutter, to utter repeated words of derision.” This is what the enemy will do to discourage the work of God. How did Nehemiah handle this opposition?

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Lesson 3

Please Read Nehemiah 3: 1 – 32

Introduction: The work was organized and directed, with the spiritual leaders taking the lead and the people cooperating. God noted each worker and put their names in the book. Each one had a specified area of responsibility. No one can do everything, but every person can do something. Of course, you will never have 100 percent cooperation; in verse 5 we find some of the nobles refusing to get involved. There were forty-two groups of workers. What a variety of workers – priests, rulers, women, craftsmen, and even Jews from other cities. Some did their work at home; some workers were the only ones from their families and some workers were more zealous than others.

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. There is a definite spiritual lesson in each of these gates. While going through the description of each gate ask the Lord to show you the spiritual lesson and write down what the Holy Spirit is teaching you. It's interesting, the high priest is the first person mentioned who pitched in and helped with the work. Spiritual leaders must lead not only by word but also by action. What do you think the Sheep Gate was used for?

- According to Nehemiah 3: 1 – 2 what was done at this Gate and Tower that did not happen at the others?

- What spiritual lesson did you discover at this gate? (Hint refer to John10)

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2. One of the main roads through Jerusalem entered through the Fish Gate (2 Chronicles 33: 14). The fish market was near the gate, and merchants from Tyre, the Sea of Galilee, and other fishing areas entered this gate to sell their fish. What spiritual lesson can we take away from this gate? (Refer to Mark 1: 16 – 18)

3. Name some of the craftsmen and leaders who worked on the Old City Gate according to Nehemiah 3: 6 – 12?
 - What did you find unique about verses 10 & 12?

4. According to Nehemiah 3: 13 Hanun and his crew repaired the Valley Gate. What else did they accomplish that is amazing?
 - What spiritual lessons can we learn from the Valley Gate? (Refer to Psalm 23: 4 & Psalm 84: 4 – 7)

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5. What four things did Shallun accomplish on repairing the Fountain Gate according to Nehemiah 3: 15?

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2)

3)

4)

- What spiritual lessons can we learn from the Fountain Gate? (Refer to John 7: 37 – 39)

6. In Nehemiah 3: 1 – 15 we have the phrase “Next to them” meaning they worked side by side. In verses 16 – 32 we have the phrase “After him” speaking of individual families working together. What stands out to you in verses 21, 23, 28, & 30 that would make a difference if you were working on this project?

- Nehemiah 3: 30 The name Meshullam means “devoted” and his father Berechiah’s name means “the Lord has blessed him”. The blessing of the Lord in a home does not depend upon how large or small it is but upon the devotion and dedication of the person living in that home. What is the condition of the walls of devotion and dedication to the Lord in your home?

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Lesson 4

Please Read Nehemiah 4: 1 – 23

Introduction: There is a wall to be built around the city of your soul. There is a wall to be built, a testimony to be erected around your church. There is a wall of witness and testimony to be built around the whole Kingdom of God in all the world. Whether you be concerned primarily with building the wall in your own soul, or with building the wall of your church, or with building the wall of the Kingdom of God throughout the whole world, you will discover that there is no winning without warfare, there is not opportunity without opposition, there is no victory with vigilance. For whenever the people of God say, "Let us arise and build," Satan says, "Let me arise and oppose."

Pastor Alan Redpath

1. Sanballat was governor of Samaria, the region just north of Judea, where Jerusalem was located. Sanballat may have hoped to become governor of Judea as well, but Nehemiah's arrival spoiled his plans. What did Sanballat and Tobiah do according to Nehemiah 4: 1 – 3 when learning of the rebuilding of the wall?
 - What does the Bible teach about anger and rage? How should we react to those who are angry?
 - Proverbs 14: 16 – 17, 29
 - Proverbs 15: 1 – 2, 18
 - Proverbs 16: 32

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- Proverbs 19: 11

 - Ephesians 4: 31 – 32

 - James 1: 19 – 21
2. What was Nehemiah's reaction to their anger, rage, and mocking? He prayed! What did Nehemiah pray according to Nehemiah 4: 4 – 6?
3. According to Nehemiah 4: 7 – 8 once Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs heard the work was continuing and the walls were being repaired they were furious and made plans to fight and cause confusion. What understanding do we come to when reading James 3: 14 – 17 and 1 Corinthians 14: 33?
4. Again, how did Nehemiah react in verse 9?

Eight times in this book we read that Nehemiah prayed spontaneously. He prayed at any time, even while talking with others. He knew that God is always in charge, is always present, and hears and answers every prayer. Nehemiah constantly combines prayer with preparation and planning.

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5. According to Nehemiah 4: 10 – 12 how did the enemy launch their attack against the work on the wall? What were the complaints of the men of Judah?

- Jesus said in John 16: 33 *In the world you will have **tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*” What trials and tribulations have you faced as a Christian?

6. Nehemiah took wise, practical steps to counter the threats. What steps did Nehemiah take to come up against this attack according to Nehemiah 4: 13?

1)

2)

3)

- What three things did Nehemiah tell the people to encourage them in verse 14?

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7. According to Nehemiah 4: 14 who were the men fighting for? How much incentive would this give you?

8. What great spiritual lessons do we learn from Nehemiah 4: 15 – 18?

9. We are all in this Christian life together building and battling. The work the Holy Spirit is doing in your life is great. The work God is doing in the Church around the world is extensive. We are guarding and listening 24/7. According to Nehemiah 4: 19 – 23 when they heard the sound of the trumpet what were all the workers to do?
 - Today, we are building and battling but at any time we could hear the blast of a trumpet sound calling us all together. What comfort and encouragement do we have in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18?

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Lesson 5

Please Read Nehemiah 5: 1 – 19

Introduction: “What this church needs is...”. “I can’t believe our government officials. If I were there I would...!” “Our schools are really in bad shape. Someone ought to do something!” Grumblers, complainers, self-proclaimed prophets, and armchair quarterbacks abound. It is easy to analyze, scrutinize, and talk about all the problems in the world. But what we really need are people who will not just discuss a situation but who will do something about it! Nehemiah saw a problem and was distressed. Instead of complaining or wallowing in self-pity and grief, he took action.

Life Application Bible

1. According to Nehemiah 5: 1 – 5 there was a cry of protest from Jewish men and their wives against their Jewish brothers who had powerful positions in the community and were rich. Why were they so upset? What were they protesting?

2. What did Nehemiah do after hearing the problem in verse 6 and 7? What action did he take? Do you believe there is “righteous anger”? Please explain:

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- How did Jesus help the poor and oppressed? (Refer to Luke 4: 18 – 19)
4. How did they reply in verses 12 – 13 after Nehemiah said, *“Should you not walk in the fear of God?”*
- What did Jesus say about keeping a promise or taking an oath according to Matthew 5: 33 – 37?
5. What do we learn about the integrity and leadership of Nehemiah according to Nehemiah 5: 14 – 19?
- Do you consider yourself a man of integrity and a promise keeper? Explain.

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Lesson 6

Please Read Nehemiah 6: 1 – 19

Introduction: Whenever there is a good work of the Lord the enemy will attack. He will try to stop what God has called you to do by fear and discouragement. In Nehemiah chapter 6 the enemy personally attacked Nehemiah's character by starting false rumors, false reports, unjust criticism, deceit, and insults; all to turn the people against Nehemiah. However, Nehemiah trusted God rather than man. He listened to God's plan and remembered God's calling. The Lord gave Nehemiah courage and strength to work and not run. He did not hide in the face of fear but stood firm in faith, believing God.

Pastor Rick Myers

1. What amazing words do you read in Nehemiah 6: 1 and 15 – 16?

“Great achievements and success in Christian work is perhaps the most dangerous time.”

2. The wall was finished with only the doors and gates to be hung. It was during this time the invitation came from Nehemiah's enemies. Many times, the enemy attacks will come at the beginning and the end of a great work. How did Jesus get attacked at the beginning of His ministry and what was His response according to Matthew 4: 1 – 11?

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- How was Jesus attacked at the closing of His ministry according to Matthew 26: 36 – 56?

- What were the final words of Jesus according to John 19: 30?

- 3. The plain of Ono was about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem and a perfect place for an ambush. The Lord gave Nehemiah wisdom and discernment to see through the enemy’s devious plot. Would you go to a place called “Ono”?
 - According to Nehemiah 6: 3 – 4 what was Nehemiah’s response to their request? (Please write it out)

- 4. The enemy is always persistent with various methods of attack. According to Nehemiah 6: 5 – 7 how were they trying to persuade Nehemiah to come meet with them?
 - According to Nehemiah 6: 8 – 9 what was his reply and what was he determined to do in response to this letter?

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5. There's a famous English expression that says, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Meaning when the situation becomes difficult, the strong will work harder to meet the challenge. In verses 10 – 14 Nehemiah would be attacked again but this time he was told to run for his life. How did Nehemiah show his leadership as a man who placed his trust and faith in God?

6. Read Nehemiah 6: 15 – 19. What an absolute amazing accomplishment this was to finish the wall in fifty-two days. What did the enemies and surrounding nations come to realize about this great work?
 - What do we learn from the following Scriptures?
 - Philippians 4: 13 & 19

 - John 15: 5

 - Luke 1: 37

 - Jeremiah 32: 17

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Lesson 7

Please Read Nehemiah 7: 1 – 73

Introduction: The wall was complete, but the work was not finished. Nehemiah assigned each family the task of protecting the section of the wall next to their home. It is tempting to relax our guard and rest on past accomplishments after we have completed a large task. But we must continue to serve and to take care of all that God has entrusted to us. Following through after a project is completed is as vital as doing the project itself.

Life Application Study Bible

1. It appears Nehemiah had a personal interest in hanging the doors according to Nehemiah 7: 1. Why is hanging the doors so important?

- What else did Nehemiah do according to verse 1? Why was this important?

2. What important decision did Nehemiah make according to Nehemiah 7: 2?

- What does it mean to you to be a faithful man?

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- What does a man's character look like who fears the Lord ? (Refer to Micah 6: 8)
3. What instructions did Nehemiah give to his brother Hanani, and Hananiah according to Nehemiah 7: 3? Why was this such an important request?
- Protecting our home is one of the most important things we can do as a man of God. It's more than physical protection, it's spiritual protection. What steps can you take to protect your household spiritually?
 - What lessons do we learn from the following Scriptures?
 - Psalm 127: 1
 - Hebrews 3: 3 – 4?
 - Matthew 7: 24 – 27

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4. According to Nehemiah 7: 4 – 5 the city of Jerusalem needed to be populated and its houses rebuilt so Nehemiah went to the record of the original returnees to help him determine who should become a citizen of Jerusalem. He did not want any of the “mixed multitude” to come in and cause trouble. Who were the “mixed multitude” according to Exodus 12: 37 – 39, Numbers 11: 4.- 6 and Nehemiah 13: 3?
- One of the most difficult things in the Christian life is maintaining the purity of our walk of faith and fellowship. What valuable wisdom and understanding can we glean from 1 Timothy 4: 12 – 16?

 - Please notice in Nehemiah 7: 5 Nehemiah said, “*My God put it into my heart*”. Do you know when God is placing something in your heart? How do you know it’s from God or your flesh? (Read Proverbs 4: 10 – 13, 23 – 27)
5. In Nehemiah 7: 7 – 73 we have the list of those who return to Jerusalem after seventy years of captivity in Babylon. In this list are Leaders, Men of Israel, Priests, Levites, and Servants. But most of all we see Families. The key to a strong nation is godly families. Husbands hold the keys to a successful marriage and fathers hold the keys to a flourishing family. Please pray in your group for families you know who need Jesus.

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Lesson 8

Please Read Nehemiah 8: 1 – 18

Introduction: The person who can read well has a much better opportunity of knowing and understanding God’s Word than the person who has to rely upon what others tell him about the Word of God. Reading God’s Word is a very important part of communicating God’s Word to God’s people. Public Scripture reading was a regular part of the worship services in Israel and in the early church. Today we are blessed above all people in history, for not only does everyone know how to read, but there also are enough copies of the Bible available so that everyone may have a personal copy. We also have access to the internet. Here are some suggestions to help you in receiving the greatest benefit from reading the Bible. Read the Bible prayerfully. Read the Bible thoughtfully. Read the Bible carefully. Read the Bible repeatedly. Read the Bible extensively. Read the Bible regularly. Read the Bible faithfully. Read the Bible obediently.

The New Open Bible Study Edition

1. Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the wall; Ezra led the spiritual revival of the nation. Nehemiah, as governor, was the political leader; and Ezra, as priest and scribe, was the religious leader. According to Nehemiah 8:1 what was in the heart of the people as they gathered together back in Jerusalem?

2. According to Nehemiah 8: 2 – 3 what did Ezra do on October 8th, 445 B.C.?
 - What does Romans 10: 17 tell you about faith?

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- According to Psalm 19: 7 – 11 what understanding do we learn about the Law of the Lord?
3. The Book of the Law of Moses was probably the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. What was the response of the people when Ezra started reading God's Word to them according to Nehemiah 8: 4 – 6?
- The people listened attentively to Ezra as he read God's Word, and their lives were changed. How has the hearing and reading of God's Word changed your life?
4. Nehemiah 8: 7 – 8 is an amazing verse in understanding how God the Holy Spirit gave men the ability to teach and explain God's Word more clearly. Write out verse 8.
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5. According to Nehemiah 8: 9 – 12 what did Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites tell the people to do?

- Why would the people weep over hearing God's Word?

- One of the great proofs that the Bible is really God's inspired Word is its unique ability to convict men and women of their sins. When there is conviction, then comes repentance, and with repentance comes confession. According to 1 John 1: 9 and Psalm 32: 1 - 5 what does confession bring to us?

6. According to Nehemiah 8: 16 – 17 how did the people react when they understood God's Word?

- It's important to act when God speaks to us through His Word. How are you encouraged by James 1: 22 and James 2: 18?

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During this time, they were to think about God's protection, provision, and guidance during their years of wandering. This was a time to remember all that God has done for them. It is helpful to remember our beginnings to appreciate where we are today.

7. According to 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 28 what are we to remember?
8. According to Nehemiah 8: 18 in the New Living Translation, Ezra read from the Book of the Law on each of the seven days of the festival. This is a great lesson for us to learn in our devotional life. Please answer the following questions:
- Do you have a time you spend in God's Word each day?
 - Are you consistently reading through books of the Bible?
 - Devotionals can be beneficial, but are you reading through the Bible with a study plan? What plan are you using?
 - Are you memorizing, meditating, and obeying God's Word?

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Lesson 9

Please Read Nehemiah 9: 1 – 38

Introduction: Nehemiah 9: 17 describes God's nature by listing a few of His attributes. The first that he mentions is God's willingness to pardon. Though His people were completely unfaithful to Him, God was completely faithful to His people. We have all fallen short of His glory, but the blood of Jesus is able to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Just as God was ready to forgive the Israelites, He is ready to forgive you, no matter what you've done. Why? Because God is gracious. He bestows His blessings on those who do not deserve it. God is merciful. As David who really needed God's mercy pointed out, God doesn't reward us according to our sins. Instead, He extends His mercy toward those who fear Him, mercy as high as the heavens are above the earth. God is slow to anger. Sometimes I get a little upset about that. I am a lot like James and John who wanted to call fire down from heaven to consume the Samaritans who insulted Jesus. But Jesus is slow to anger. He is patient and long-suffering. God is kind. He was kind to Israel, He has been kind to our country, and He has certainly been kind to me. God sees our failings, our flaws, and our weaknesses. And yet He stands ready to pardon. When we call on Him, He forgives us, washes us, and renews us. It is His nature.

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. According to Nehemiah 9: 1 – 3 what did the people do as they assembled together again?
 - Why would the people dress in burlap and place dust on their heads? What would this symbolize? (Read Genesis 2: 7, 3:19, Joshua 7: 6, Job 2:12, Psalm 22: 15, Isaiah 26: 5 and Luke 9: 5)

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2. According to Nehemiah 9: 2 as Israel was confessing their sins and the past sins of their ancestors why did they need to separate themselves from other nations?
 - What did the Apostle Paul call us to do as Christians according to 2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 18?

3. When the truth of God's Word reveals the heart of a man, confession and repentance begins. According to Nehemiah 9: 3 what comes after confession?
 - Do you have a heart of worship realizing all that God has done in your life? Read Psalm 95: 1 – 7 and Psalm 100: 1 – 5.

4. God chose Abram and renamed him Abraham. According to Nehemiah 9: 8 why did God choose Abraham?
 - What do we learn from Hebrews 11: 8 – 10, 17 – 19?

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5. How many times is the word “you” used in Nehemiah 9: 12 – 15? Make a list of all God did for the children of Israel in the wilderness:

6. God provided everything they needed in the wilderness to sustain their lives. According to Nehemiah 9: 16 – 18 how did the children of Israel respond to God’s care and provision?
 - As the Levites continued to pray, what statement did they make at the end of verse 17? (Please write it out)

 - How has God shown you forgiveness, grace, and mercy in your walk with Him?

7. Our God is a promise keeper. Apparently, according to Nehemiah 9: 22 – 23 Israel’s descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. What did God promise Abraham in Genesis 12: 1 – 3, Genesis 15: 5 – 6 and Genesis 22: 13 – 18?

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- Why did God bless Abraham and how did that blessing come upon us according to Galatians 3: 6 – 16?
8. According to Nehemiah 9: 26 – 30 Israel continued repeatedly to sin and turn away from God. What pattern did Israel follow and what was their greatest sin?
- What do we learn from these verses in the Book of Proverbs?
 - Proverbs 6: 16 – 23

 - Proverbs 7: 1 – 3

 - Proverbs 8: 13 – 17

 - Proverbs 8: 32 – 36
9. Read Nehemiah 9:31. Our God is so gracious and merciful to us showing His unfailing love and devotion. What important lessons do we learn about God's grace, mercy, and love in Romans 5: 12 – 21, 6: 1 – 2?

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10. In these final verses of the Levites prayer in Nehemiah 9: 32 – 38 what did they recognize in their human nature compared to God's spiritual nature?

- How does this relate to our walk with the Lord today and how can we have the victory according to Galatians 5: 16 – 25?

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Lesson 10

Please Read Nehemiah 10: 1 – 39

Introduction: Chapter 10 gives the names of the brave and godly people who entered the covenant with God that day. Little did they realize that their names would be recorded eternally in the Word! In verses 28 – 39, we see the people applying the Word to their everyday lives. It is one thing to pray and sign a covenant; it is another thing to separate from evil, straighten out our homes (verses 28 – 30), honor the commandments (verse 31), contribute to the house of God (verses 32 – 33), and serve God with tithes and offerings (verses 34 – 39). Too many “Bible conferences” end with the people stirred and blessed, but not obeying what they have heard.

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. Eighty-two men signed this agreement. Who was the first person to ratify and seal this document? Why is this important?

2. According to Nehemiah 10: 28 – 29 who were the rest of the people that committed themselves in taking this promise?
 - What did they promise to do in making this solemn promise to the Lord?

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- The people even swore a curse upon themselves if they did not obey the Law of the Lord. What are some of the curses that would come upon them if they did not obey the Law of God according to Deuteronomy 28: 15 – 20? (If you would like to read more, read verses 21 – 68, it's brutal!)
3. Being a follower of Jesus Christ has brought great blessings. The Lord also gave blessings to Israel as they obeyed the Law of God. What are some of those blessings according to Deuteronomy 28: 1 – 14?
- How has God brought blessings upon your life as you have followed the Lord and have stayed true to His Word?
4. According to Nehemiah 10: 30 – 33 list the promises they were committing themselves to:

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- What was their goal and purpose in fulfilling these promises according to verse 33?
5. How were they going to put these promises into action according to Nehemiah 10: 34 – 39? Again, what was their main priority?
- It is estimated there are 8, 810 promises in the Bible with 7,487 of those promises made by God to humankind. What do we discover about God's promises in 2 Peter 1: 2 – 3, 3: 9 and 2 Corinthians 1: 18 – 22 (NKJV)

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Lesson 11

Please Read Nehemiah 11: 1 – 36

Introduction: Everyone was given a task as they faithfully served the Lord. This all-inclusive principle needs recognition in that the most obscure task in the service of the Lord is just as important as the most public work.

In ministry, those who serve ought not to strive, be envious or show contempt with those who handle leadership inside the house of the Lord, nor should servants of the Lord show discord among those who do the Lord's work outside of the church. Both are needed, useful, and dependent upon each other. Neither can be spared.

When the principle of faithfulness is recognized within the church, service to the Lord functions the way it should. The work of the Lord is best accomplished when people become less concerned about who gets the credit and more concerned about God getting the glory. What has God called you to do? Are you being faithful with what he has entrusted to you?

Pastor John Randall

1. Nehemiah was trying to re-populate the city of Jerusalem because some parts of the city were vacant. What was Nehemiah's plan to get people to come back into Jerusalem to live according to Nehemiah 11: 1?
 - What understanding do we come to in Proverbs 16: 33 and Joshua 18: 6 – 10?

 - How does Leviticus 16: 8, Psalm 22: 18 and John 19: 23 – 24 all relate to our Lord Jesus Christ?

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- Why was it important for the city of Jerusalem to be filled with people? What was the city called in verse 1 that made it a very special place (Refer to Psalm 46: 4 – 5, 48: 1 – 2 and Zechariah 8:3)
2. According to Nehemiah 11: 2 what was said about those who willingly volunteered to come live in Jerusalem? (Refer to Judges 5: 9)
- To live in Jerusalem was a great sacrifice for many, but those who willingly gave themselves for the service of God were blessed by the Lord. According to Romans 12: 1 – 8 how do we see this same “willingness” in the Church today?
3. Nehemiah was very meticulous in listing the heads of the families and their positions of service to the city. Read Nehemiah 11: 3 – 19 carefully in both the NKJV and NLT. List the various leadership positions, and duties of these men who served, along with the description of their character in verses 6, 14.

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- How would you describe these men who were called “*mighty men of valor*”? (Refer to Deuteronomy 3: 18 and 1 Chronicles 7: 40, 8: 40, 12: 8)

 - Who would be considered “*mighty men of valor*” in the time of Christ and in our time today?
4. In Nehemiah 11: 17 and 22 the descendants of “Asaph” are mentioned. Who was this man Asaph and what legacy did he leave to his children according to 1 Chronicles 15: 16 – 19, 16: 1 – 7 and 25: 1 – 9?
- How important is worship in the church today? Do you love worshiping the Lord? What did Jesus say about worship according to John 4: 20 – 24?

 - What are we instructed to do in Psalm 100: 1 – 5 and Psalm 150: 1 – 6?

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Remember at the end of chapter 10 the people made a promise saying, “*we will not neglect the house of our God.*” Apparently, one out of every 10 Jews would live in Jerusalem to serve in the house of the Lord, with 90% living outside the city. It’s interesting that with each of these groups, the Priests and Levites had different jobs in and around the Temple, which included worship services. Each of these groups served two-week shifts each year at the house of the Lord. The rest of the time they served in their hometowns. This system was still in place in Jesus’ day.

- What amazing thing happened to a priest named Zacharias that resulted in answered prayer and fulfilled prophecy according to Luke 1: 5 – 25?

5. According to Nehemiah 11: 25 – 36 we see those who resettled outside of Jerusalem. Living in Jerusalem required stricter obedience to God’s Word because of greater social pressure and proximity to the Temple. Where do you think you would want to live and why?

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Lesson 12

Please Read Nehemiah 12: 1 – 47

Introduction: The actual dedication of the walls is described in Nehemiah 12: 27 – 47. Ezra and Nehemiah divided the people into two great companies, with Ezra leading one and Nehemiah following the other. They started probably at the valley gate. Ezra led his company along the east side of the city, then north to the temple area. Nehemiah and his company went straight north and then east, meeting the other company at the temple area. It was a reminder, perhaps, of when Israel marched around Jericho and won a great victory. It was also an opportunity to publicly thank the Lord as they witnessed the work accomplished. Nehemiah 12: 43 indicates that the joy of the city was heard miles away! When dedicated people unite joyfully to dedicate God's work, they will always experience God's blessing.

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. Genealogies were extremely important to the Israelites, as they recorded not only from which tribe a person had come, but also the role each person played in the community. To serve as a priest, you had to be from a bloodline of priests originating from Aaron. According to verse 1 and Ezra 2: 2 who originally led these priests and Levites out of exile from Babylon to Jerusalem?

2. Here in Nehemiah 12 and in the Book of Ezra, we have the list of priests and Levites who were vital in leading songs of thanksgiving and sacrificial offerings. Reading in the New Living Translation in Nehemiah 12: 10 – 21 what word or repeated phrase stands out to you?

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- The word “*father*” was repeated five times. But the phrase “*leader of the family*” was repeated twenty-one times. Our highest calling as a father is to be the leader of the family. What do we learn about being a father in the following scriptures?
 - 1 Thessalonians 2: 10 – 12

 - Proverbs 4: 1 – 5

 - Ephesians 6: 4

- What do the following scriptures teach us about leading our family?
 - 1 Timothy 3: 4 – 5, 12

 - 1 Corinthians 11: 3

 - Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 9, 20 – 25

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3. There was much planning taking place for the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem. According to Nehemiah 12: 27 – 30 what were some of those preparations and why are they an important part of the service?
 - It's interesting that Psalm 120 – 134 are called "Songs of Ascent". It's believed that these Psalms (songs) were sung by the Jewish pilgrims leaving Babylon as they journeyed towards Jerusalem. Read Psalm 121 and 122. What speaks to your heart as you read through these beautiful Psalms?

4. In verse 30 we are told that the priests and Levites were to purify themselves, and to purify the people, the gates, and the wall. According to Leviticus 8 – 23 what were the three elements required for purification?
 - What do we learn from the Apostle John in 1 John 5: 1 – 8?

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- What amazing truth of God's Word do we come to understand about God's cleansing and purifying us for service we find in Hebrews 9: 19 – 22 and Hebrews 10: 19 – 25?
5. According to Nehemiah 12: 31 – 39 there were two great processions of people praising the Lord with singing and playing their musical instruments. One was led by Ezra and the other Nehemiah followed. What unusual route did they take and where did they stop?
- Do you think Nehemiah giving them the route to take on top of the wall had anything to do with the ridicule that Sanballat and Tobiah gave them in Nehemiah 4: 1 – 3?
6. This was a great day of celebration as they dedicated the wall to the Lord. What took place inside the house of God according to Nehemiah 12: 43?
7. What do we see taking place in Nehemiah 12: 44 – 47 that must have blessed the heart of Nehemiah and Ezra?

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Lesson 13

Please Read Nehemiah 13: 1 – 31

Introduction: Nehemiah had to return to Babylon in 433 B.C., 12 years after he arrived in Jerusalem. Either he was recalled by Artaxerxes, or he was fulfilling an agreement to return. It is not known exactly how long he remained in Babylon, but when he returned to Jerusalem, he found that one of his major opponents in rebuilding the wall, Tobiah, had been given his own room at the Temple. He was an Ammonite and thus forbidden to enter the Temple. Eliashib the priest had married Tobiah's daughter, so Tobiah used his influence with his son-in-law to get this special room. Nehemiah was filled with righteous indignation at the blatant way the Jews were breaking God's laws and disregarding the covenant they had previously reconfirmed. The people had promised not to allow their children to marry pagans. But during Nehemiah's absence, the people had been intermarrying, breaking their solemn promise to God.

Life Application Bible

1. On the same day the Law of the Lord was read in Nehemiah chapters 8 & 9, the people were broken, confessing their sins, worshiping God, and promising to obey the Law. What did Nehemiah bring specifically to their attention regarding the Law in the Book of Moses according to Nehemiah 13: 1 – 3?
 - It seems the Israelites had a short memory. What did the prophet Micah say in Micah 6: 6 – 8 concerning what's important regarding our relationship with the Lord?

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2. Throughout chapter 13 Nehemiah tells us the problems he was facing on his return to Jerusalem and then, as a true leader, he gives the solution. What was the first problem Nehemiah had to deal with in Nehemiah 13: 4 – 7?
 - The enemy has a way of slithering in when a work of God is being done. How can we be aware of the attacks of the enemy and what should we do in confronting spiritual warfare according to Ephesians 6: 10 – 13?

3. How did Nehemiah solve the problem according to Nehemiah 13: 8 – 9?
 - Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became king and he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done. What was one of the first commands Hezekiah gave according to 2 Chronicles 29: 3 – 5, 15 – 19?

4. There was another problem that Nehemiah had discovered. What was the problem and how did he take action to solve this disobedience to God's Word? Read Nehemiah 13: 10 – 13.

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- What did the prophet Malachi say about the tithes and offerings according to Malachi 3: 6 – 10?
5. One by one all the promises the priest, the Levites and the people had made were being broken. According to Nehemiah 13: 15 – 22 people were not honoring the Sabbath. What were they specifically doing and how did Nehemiah correct the problem?
- In Matthew 21: 1 – 11 Jesus had just entered Jerusalem. What did Jesus do as He entered the Temple area according to Matthew 21: 12 – 16?
6. Again, the enemy has a way of sneaking in when no one is looking. According to Nehemiah 13: 23 – 28, 30 while Nehemiah was gone the men of Judah broke their promise not to marry foreign women. This was strictly forbidden in the law of God. What problems did this bring into their society and what hard line solution did Nehemiah take to solve the problem?
- What lessons can we learn from 2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 18?

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7. Did you notice that all throughout chapter 13 Nehemiah was praying? Look at verses 14, 22, 29 and 31. Nehemiah began his book with prayer, and he ended his book in prayer. Nehemiah was a man devoted to prayer. This is a valuable lesson we all need to learn if we are to be mighty men of valor serving the Lord. Write out each of these short prayers. What do they all have in common?
- What encouragement do we receive from Philippians 1: 3 – 6?
8. Nehemiah was not only a prayer warrior, but he was a leader among men. All throughout the Book of Nehemiah we see leadership in action. What were some of the leadership qualities you saw in Nehemiah that you would like in your own life?

Lessons in Leadership

- 1) Have a clear purpose and keep evaluating in the light of God's will from God's Word.
- 2) Be straightforward and honest.
- 3) Live above reproach.
- 4) Be a person of constant prayer, deriving power and wisdom from your personal relationship with the Lord.

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