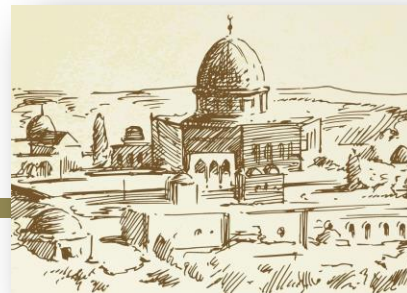


Nehemiah: Servant to the King

“Responding to Spiritual Carelessness”

Nehemiah 13:4-31 (Part 1 of 2)



Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, June 30, 2013

Introduction: Nehemiah had returned to Jerusalem and found the city and the people in spiritual disarray. In Nehemiah’s absence, God had sent the prophet Malachi to address the very issues that Nehemiah was forced to deal with upon his return. (Malachi 1:6-14; 2:1-9; 2:10-16; 3:6-12)

Nehemiah was deeply passionate, wisely decisive and unashamedly proactive in responding to **FOUR MAJOR ISSUES** (*Issues 1 & 2 in Part I, Issues 3 & 4 in Part II*):

Issue #1:

Through _____ God’s _____ Was _____
(*Nehemiah 13:4-9*)

Summary: God’s leaders had _____ and allowed God’s temple to be the dwelling of an enemy.

- Tobiah the Ammonite was a _____ in Nehemiah’s flesh. (2:19-20; 4:3-5; 6:17-19) who now _____ in the house of God (13:4)!
- Eliashib’s _____ was to Tobiah rather than God and this led to sinful _____.

Nehemiah’s Response:

- Nehemiah _____ removed what was _____.
- Nehemiah _____ restored what was _____.

God’s grace and His glory call for his people to _____!

Scriptures: *Hebrews 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12; 1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

“Too often ugly sin becomes tolerated in our lives
and eventually may even become the preferred thing.”

James Montgomery Boice

The Outcome: Nehemiah’s _____ against Tobiah’s temple defilement,
made way for correcting the next issue, the failure to _____.

Issue #2:

Through _____ God's _____ Was _____

(Nehemiah 13:10-14)

Summary: God's people had _____. Their _____ living led to God's work and God's workers being sadly neglected.

- Failure to think about God and His Work leads to spiritually careless and selfish living. Selfish living leads to _____>
- When we are NOT giving faithfully and liberally, our response of repentance ought to be _____ and _____.

Nehemiah's Response:

- a. Nehemiah confronted the _____.
- b. Nehemiah chose and organized _____.

The Outcome: The response of the people to Nehemiah's efforts to clean house and to reprioritize the work of God was _____.

Conclusion:

Nehemiah knew that HE was not the _____ of this story.

He knew the _____ of Israel lay in the hands of a gracious God.

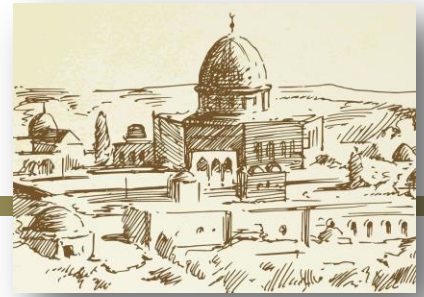
How about YOU?

- Where is your loyalty?
- What are your priorities?
- In what do you entrust your future?

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Introduction: Nehemiah had returned to Jerusalem and found the city and the people in spiritual disarray. In Nehemiah’s absence, God had sent the prophet Malachi to address the very issues that Nehemiah was forced to deal with upon his return. (Malachi 1:6-14; 2:1-9; 2:10-16; 3:6-12)

Nehemiah was deeply passionate, wisely decisive and unashamedly proactive in responding to **FOUR MAJOR ISSUES** (Issues 1-2 in Part 1, Issues 2-4 in Part 2):

Issue #1:

Through **Compromise** God’s **House** Was **Defiled**.

(Nehemiah 13:4-9)

Summary: God’s leaders had **compromised** and allowed God’s temple to be the dwelling of an enemy.

- Tobiah the Ammonite was a **thorn** in Nehemiah’s flesh. (2:19-20; 4:3-5; 6:17-19) who now **resided** in the house of God (13:4)!
- Eliashib’s **loyalty** was to Tobiah rather than God and this led to **sinful compromise**.

Nehemiah’s Response:

- Nehemiah **decisively** removed what was **unclean**.
- Nehemiah **thoroughly** restored what was **pure**.

God’s grace and His glory call for his people to **clean house**!

Scriptures: Heb. 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12; 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

“Too often ugly sin becomes tolerated in our lives
and eventually may even become the preferred thing.”

James Montgomery Boice

The Outcome: Nehemiah’s **decisive action** against Tobiah’s temple defilement, made way for correcting the next issue, the failure to **support God’s work**.

Issue #2:

Through Thoughtlessness God's Work Was Ignored

(Nehemiah 13:10-14)

Summary: God's people had misplaced priorities. Their godless living led to God's work and God's workers being sadly neglected.

- Failure to think about God and His Work leads to spiritually careless and selfish living. Selfish living leads to diminished giving.
- When we are NOT giving faithfully and liberally, our response of repentance ought to be immediate and decisive.

Nehemiah's Response:

- c. Nehemiah confronted the leaders.
- d. Nehemiah chose and organized reliable men .

The Outcome: The response of the people to Nehemiah's efforts to clean house and to reprioritize the work of God was renewed giving.

Conclusion:

Nehemiah knew that HE was not the hero of this story.

He knew the future of Israel lay in the hands of a gracious God.

How about YOU?

- Where is your loyalty?
- What are your priorities?
- In what do you entrust your future?