

NEHEMIAH 13

RECAP : NEHEMIAH HAS LEAD THE ISREALITES IN REBUILDING THE CITY, REBUILDING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND REBUILDING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

IN CHAPTER 13 WE SEE THAT NEHEMIAH WAS CALLED AWAY, IT IS SAID ANYWHERE FROM 2-10 YEARS HAS PASSED. NEHEMIAH COMES BACK TO JERUSALEM AND IS FLOORED WHEN HE SEES THAT EVERYONE HAS BACKSLIDDEN TO THEIR OLD WAYS

Chapter 10, the Israelites, after a very solemn time of rededication of their lives, took a vow that they would not intermarry with the members of these other races. They bound themselves with a curse and an oath to obey the commands of the Law of God. And yet here, some ten years later, that covenant has already been broken. Many Ammonites and Moabites are found in the congregation of Israel. They got there because Israelite men married the daughters of Ammonite and Moabite families, something which God had strictly forbidden in the Law of Moses.

TODAY, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WAYS TO STAY THE COURSE AND NOT BACKSLIDE WHILE LOOKING AT THE ALL TO FAMILIAR WAY THAT THE ISREALITES DIDBACKSLIDE

Nehemiah 13:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

13 On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God,² because they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them. (Our God, however, turned the curse into a blessing.)³ When the people heard this law, they excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.

THERE IS A COUPLE OF THINGS I WANT YOU TO SEE IN THIS SCRIPTURE

FIRST OF ALL, IN CHAPTER TEN, THE ISREALITES TOOK A VOW NOT TO INTER-MARRY BETWEEN TRIBES. THE AMMONITES AND MOABITES HAD CALLED DOWN A CURSE ON THE ISREALITES THROUGH THE PROPHET BALAAM (THAT GOD TURNED INTO A BLESSING)

EVER HEARD THE PHRASE “YOU ARE THE COMPANY YOU KEEP?”

OBVIOUSLY JESUS HAS NOT COME YET, SALVATION IS ONLY FOR THE ISREALITES AT THIS POINT. GOD’S KIDS, ONCE AGAIN, HAVE CHOSEN THE THINGS OF THE WORLD AND WHAT THEY THINK IS BEST FOR THEM. TOTAL DISOBEDIENCE. THEY INTERMARRIED WITH OTHER CULTURES THAT CAUSE THEM TO COMPROMISE ONCE AGAIN

EXPLAIN COMPROMISE

But as always in the Scriptures, there was a good reason for what God was doing here, although it may sound a bit strange to us. When the Israelites left Egypt they came to the edge of the Promised Land, into the country of the Ammonites and the Moabites. But these people did not offer them the normal desert hospitality of food and water. Instead, they hired the prophet Balaam to curse them. Balaam is forever famous because he was rebuked by his donkey. When he was trying to ride to the hilltop to curse the people, as he was hired to do, the donkey saw an angel of the Lord standing in the pathway. The beast refused to go past the angel although the prophet beat him three different times. Finally, God gave the donkey a voice and he rebuked his master: "Why are you beating me?" Then the Lord opened the prophet's eyes and he, too, saw the angel. It is a humiliating thing to be rebuked by a donkey! This is a great lesson to us. There are oftentimes hidden reasons why God is acting the way he does. We need to be very careful that we do not violate those reasons and insist on our own way against all obstacles

**EVER TRY TO CLOSE A DOOR GOD HAS OPENED
OR TRIED TO OPEN A DOOR GOD HAS CLOSED?**

**NOW TO PUT THIS IN A "RIGHT NOW" PERSPECTIVE
WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE IN A NEW
COVENANT THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS. SO ALL
ARE WELCOMED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD WHEN
THEY SAY YES TO JESUS.....BUT !!**

2 Corinthians 6:14 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

IT'S KINDA LIKE A PERSON THAT GOT CLEAN AND SOBER, FOUND JESUS, THEN THINKS IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO MOVE BACK IN WITH THEIR HEROIN DEALER

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ISREALITES HAPPENS TO US SOMETIMES. CHAOS IS FAMILIAR. WALKING WITH JESUS CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT SOMETIMES BECAUSE IT CAUSES US TO LIVE A DIFFERENT WAY, AND UNFAMILIAR WAY, A NEW WAY

HE PULLS US OUT, REFINES US, THEN SENDS US BACK IN TO SHINE

LISTEN, I AM THE BIGGEST CHEERLEADER FOR HAVING UNSAVED FRIENDS AND SPENDING TIME WITH THEM.... BUTYOUR CORE INNER CIRCLE, YOUR SOUNDING BOARD, YOUR ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS, AND YOUR SPOUSE(OR BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND) SHOULD BE A BELIEVER

LIFE CAN GET CONFUSING AND IF YOU'RE GETTING WORLDY COUNSEL, IT CAN MAKE THINGS WORSE. IT

CAN GET COMPROMISING IF YOU'RE GETTING MORE
WORLD THAN JESUS

“BUT WHAT IF I'M ALREADY MARRIED TO AN
UNBELIEVER?” WELL, YOU'RE IN IT. IT MAY GET
DIFFICULT AND LONELY BUT KEEP PRAYING FOR
THEM AND KEEP LOVING THEM RIGHT WHERE THEY
ARE AT. LET GOD DO THE REST

“WHY DON'T WE SHUN THEM AND KICK THEM OUT OF
OUR LIVES LIKE THE ISREALITES DID?”

BECAUSE JESUS DESTROYED THE RELIGION OF MAN
DON'T GET ME WRONG, TOXIC PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE
LIMITED TIME IN YOUR LIFE.... YOU SHINE YOUR
LIGHT AND LOVE ON THEM, THEN MOVE ON. NEVER
EVER FORGET THAT YOU ARE SAVED BY GRACE AND
GRACE ALONE. WE ARE ALL ONE BAD DECISION
AWAY FROM FALLING ON OUR FACE

**WE DON'T EVER WANT TO LIVE IN A CHRISTIAN
BUBBLE FOR VERY LONG**

Nehemiah 13:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission ⁷ and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. ⁸ I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's

household goods out of the room. ⁹ I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.

NEHEMIAH COMES HOME TO FIND TOBIAH SQUATTING
IN THE CHURCH. TOBIAH WAS A MOCKER OF NEHEMIAH
AND THE REBUILDING OF THE WALL AND THE CITY
THE ENEMY MOVED IN TO THE TEMPLE

THINK OF NEHEMIAH AS THE ISREALITES "SPONSER" OR
ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER

HE CAME BACK AND SET THEM STRAIGHT ONCE AGAIN

IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO STAY CURRENT WITH AT
LEAST ONE ELDER BELIEVER

NEHEMIAH DIDN'T CONDEMN THEM, BUT HE DID REBUKE
THEM AND HELP THEM CLEAN UP THEIR MESS.....LIKE A
SPONSER

NOW THINK ABOUT THE TEMPLE, BUT THE TEMPLE IS
YOUR HEART

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [Full Chapter]

Do you not know that your bodies
are **temples of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have

received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. **Therefore honor God with your bodies.**

WHO OR WHAT HAVE YOU LET IN, THAT IS NOW
SQUATTING IN THE TEMPLE?

I KNOW I'M CONVICTED RIGHT NOW. ARE YOU ?

AS LONG AS WE LIVE IN THIS FLESHLY BODY, WE WILL
HAVE TO CONSTANTLY CHECK THE TEMPLE
THAT MY FRIENDS IS AN HONEST INVENTORY
THEN WE HIT OUR KNEES AND ASK GOD FOR HIS
HELP.....AND THEN WE KEEP FIGHTING

Nehemiah 13:19-22 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. ²⁰ Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. ²¹ But I warned them and said, "Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will arrest you." From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. ²² Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Remember me for this also, my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.

NEHEMIAH SHOWS US "FOLLOW THROUGH" NOT ONLY DID HE CLEAN HOUSE, AGAIN, BUT HE NOW IS EXECUTING HEALTHY BOUNDRIES.

NOTICE THAT THE MERCHANTS KEPT COMING IN SPITE OF NEHEMIAH'S BOUNDRY SETTING

WHEN YOU SET BOUNDRIES WITH PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE, EXPECT THEM TO TEST IT, FOLLOW THROUGH AND STAND YOUR GROUND

KNOW YOUR TERMS (WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE AND WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE) IN YOUR LIFE

AT THE END OF VERSE 22 NEHEMIAH ASKED GOD TO REMEMBER HIM FOR THIS. THIS IS NOT A SELFISH PRAYER, RATHER, IT IS NEHEMIAH ASKING GOD TO SEARCH HIS HEART, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING I CANT SEE GOD, PLEASE TELL ME AND HAVE MERCY ON ME BECAUSE I'M DOING THE BEST THAT I CAN

YOU SEE, THIS "HOLY" MAN WAS FLAWED, HE HAD HANG UPS AND DOWNRIGHT SINS IN HIS LIFE...JUST LIKE WE

DO... HE'S DOING THE BEST THAT HE CAN AND STAYING
REPENTENT IN HIS HEART

THE LESSON OF THIS BOOK IS THIS :

NEHEMIAH SAW A NEED. HE EXECUTED A PLAN.
WHEN ADVERSITY HIT, HE DIDN'T GIVE UP, HE STAYED
COMMITTED TO THE PLAN

WHEN HE SAW THAT THE PEOPLE HE HAD HELPED
BACKSLID, HE WAS ANGRY, YES, BUT HE HELPED THEM
CLEAN UP

HE EXECUTED FIRM BOUNDRIES AND DIDN'T CAVE WHEN
THE REST OF THE WORLD DIDN'T CARE

Psalm 139:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

Psalm 139

- ¹ You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely

Psalm 139:23-24 New International Version (NIV)

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

CLOSE