

Study Guide

Nehemiah Chapter 13

1. In the opening of Nehemiah 13:1-3, he speaks of separation from evil. Read 1 Cor. 5:9-13 and discuss what that might imply for the church today. What is the danger of professing Christians living in outright sinful behaviors?

"I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. "But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. —"Purge the evil person from among you."

2. Three promises were broken from an oath in Nehemiah 10.

The Support Promise (v. 4-14)

The Sabbath Promise (v. 15-22)

The Separation Promise (v. 23-29)

Discuss from each section, how the compromises were made and what Nehemiah did to confront. Notice the strong actions taken by him as a leader. Why do you think Nehemiah reacted so decisively?

3. Discuss how these three promises are relevant to us today? How do each of them reflect a heart of worship?

4. Why do we have great intentions and then not follow through? Discuss.

Notice the way Nehemiah is living for the greatness of God and for the future.

Read the three "Remember me" statements of Nehemiah.

"Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services." (Nehemiah 13:14)

"Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love." (Nehemiah 13:22)

"Remember me with favor, O my God." (Nehemiah 13:31)

How can we stay on track living for the greatness of God?

Application:

Pray quietly and discern whether there are small concessions you've made that need to be dealt with strongly. Consider sharing this with someone.

Message Slides

How will they finish?

1. Repair the breach
2. Restore the Community
3. Finish Strong!

Big Idea: To Finish Strong, you must confront compromise!

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Key Words: "separated"; "threw out"; "cleansed"; "doors ... shut"; "purify"; "guard the gates".

I. Spiritual Compromise (v.1-3)

"On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, ²for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent."

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- A. Read from the book (v.1a)
- B. Purity Laws (v.1b-2)
- C. Separation (v.3)

New Testament Church

1 Cor. 5:9-13

"I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ...¹³"Purge the evil person from among you."¹³

Big Idea: To Finish Strong, you must confront compromise!

II. Three Promises (4-29)

A. The Support Promise (v.4-14)

"Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, ^sprepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests..."

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Nehemiah 13:8-9

"And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber.⁹ Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense..."

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Big Idea: To Finish Strong, you must confront compromise!

B. The Sabbath Promise (v.15-22)

"In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. ..."

Big Idea: To Finish Strong, you must confront compromise!

C. The Separation Promise (v.23-29)

"In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.²⁴ And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people."

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"²⁵And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite..."

"²⁶Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin."

Big Idea: To Finish Strong, you must confront compromise!

Question

Why do we have great intentions and then don't follow through?

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At the core: "What am I living for?"

"Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services." (Nehemiah 13:14)

"Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love." (Nehemiah 13:22)

"Remember me with favor, O my God." (Nehemiah 13:31)

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Big Idea: To Finish Strong, you must confront compromise because you know what you are living for!

Prayer Time

Three worship Songs

Come on up anytime for prayer.

1. What am I living for?
2. What compromises have I made that I need to confront?