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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Nehemiah

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What Do Builders Encounter?

Neh. 4

- I. Anything worthy costs.
- II. Anything good is challenged.
- III. Anything successful has an intelligent plan behind it.
- IV. So I ask, using Nehemiah on the wall, what do builders face?
 - A. Seeing the need of an effort.

Neh. 1:2-3

- 1. Walls are down, gates burned.
- 2. Face sorrowful.
- 3. Yet heart knows what must be done, having carried it to God in prayer, asking for help from powers that be.

Neh. 2:5

- B. Execute the plan and start the effort

Neh. 2:17

- C. Prepare for opposition, insult and reproach

- 1. Mocked the Jews Neh. 4:1
- 2. Feeble Jews Neh. 4:2
 - a. Fortify?
 - b. Sacrifice
 - c. End in a day - (do it in a short time.)

- d. Revive stones that are burnt? (Can they do the impossible?)
- e. Fox will break it down. (v.3)

D. Feel some righteous indignation Neh. 4:4-5

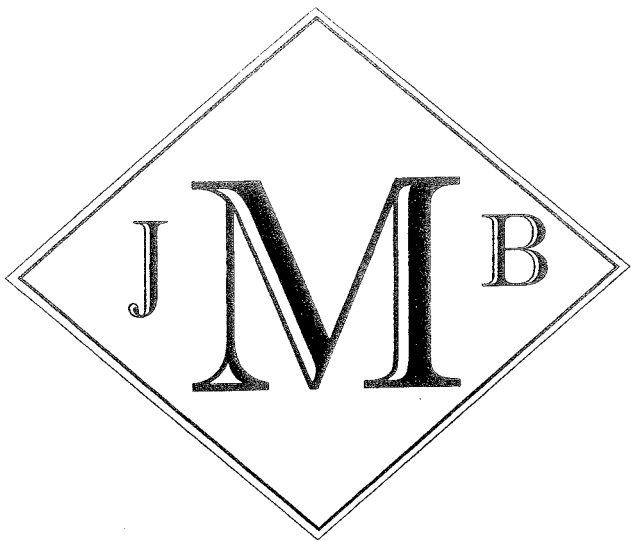
E. Devise plans to meet the opposition

1. Enemy will conspire against you (4:8)
2. Set watch - day and night
3. Prepare for brethren opposition (4:10)
4. Shore up weaknesses (4:13)
5. Half work, half defend (16-18)
6. Unify the brethren (19-20)
7. Accept hard work (v. 21)
8. Overcome the personal comfort zone (v. 23)

F. Labor til effort is successfully achieved.

v. 6 So built we the wall.

Schochoh, KY (100th anniversary) - 9/29/96



As Builders We Must Not Slacken

Neh. 4:1-6

- I. None will deny that these are tough days.
 - A. Growth does not seem to be happening.
 - B. The church is ridiculed and to some extent splintered.
 - C. Opposition to righteousness is vigorously voiced.
 - D. It is easy to be discouraged and desperation can touch the soul.
 - E. But I bid you know in the cycle of God's work we are not the first to feel the wrath of the enemy.

- II. Nehemiah saw open opposition come and he courageously met it - may we learn the same lesson!
 - A. We will learn ways in which the work can be thwarted.
 - B. At the same time learn principles to repel the attacks.
 - C. If they rebuilt walls we must learn how to counteract the deterioration ever at work in our hearts.
 - D. We assured no one who attempts the work of God will escape hostility-covert or manifested.

- E. Our opposition at first may be scoffs and ridicule.
- F. How must:
 1. Noah and his boat so far from the sea must have felt.
 2. Moses defying Pharoah with only a rod and staff to suffer afflictions with the people of God as he gave up his crown.
 3. Festus thought Paul mad to give up all he did to serve the sect everywhere spoken against.
- G. Keep the faith, Brother.

III. Nehemiah Faces Ridicule.

- A. Sanballat heard he was wroth.
 1. We see opposition come from all sides - Sanballat was from the north.
 2. He could not believe these feeble Jews would try to rebuild.
- B. He mocked the Jews and spoke before his brethren and the army.
 1. This was for home consumption.
 2. Must rally our own team.
- C. He leveled specific opposition.

1. Feeble - only here in the Hebrew Bible.
 - a) Implied incapacibilities.
 - b) Root to be weak-languish
 - c) Ridicule is a potent weapon
 - d) Ridicule a substitute for argument
- Fortify* 2. ~~Fort~~ by themselves?
 - a) Hopelessly optimistic
 - b) Have not means nor time at their disposal.
3. Sacrifice
 - a) No hope of supernatural assistance.
 - b) No God to help them.
4. Make an end in a day.
 - a) Do it in a short time.
 - b) This is major construction.
 - c) Wall a city in one day and keep the feast of dedication the next day?
5. Revive the stones out of burned rubbish.
 - a) Can't revive burnt stones
 - b) Can't do the impossible.
 - c) Use charred and moulding debris?

D. Tobiah Joined In.

1. What they build a fox will lean against it and the wall will fall.

2. Profane scoffers sharpen one another.
3. They who disagree in almost everything will join in persecution.
4. But notice the insults and gibes did not stop the builders.

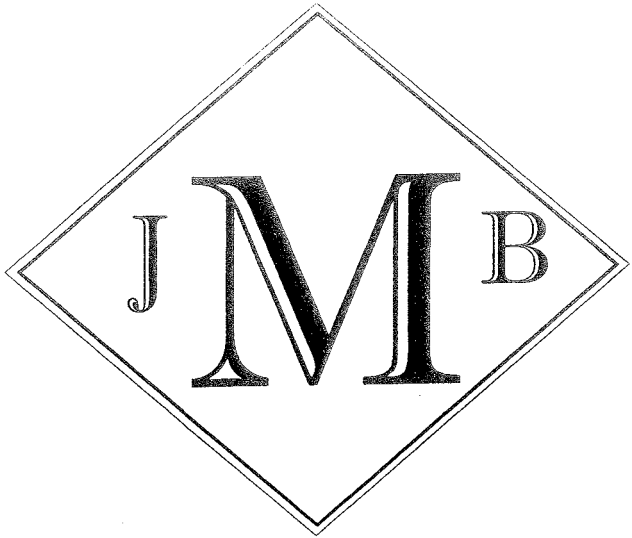
IV. Nehemiah Turns to Prayer to God.

- A. God hears the cry of his people with delight.
 1. World does not grasp the true resources of the people of God.
 2. He did not answer the fool in his folly, but turned to God.
- B. Nehemiah felt the insults as much against God as to himself - thus hands over the needs of vindication to Him.
- C. I will read you his prayer but Christians can't pray it - as we pray for our enemies.
 1. Hopes they see the same fate Jews did.
 2. Don't blot out their sins.
 3. All harsh.
 4. But we can pray a righteous prayer!

- V. So they successfully built the wall - and here is why!
- A. All the wall joined together unto the half thereof.
1. Units assigned to do their part.
 2. Now in the circle and one half intended height.
- B. How did they do it?
1. God blessed the effort - prayed!
 2. Had capable leadership that refused to surrender.
 3. Mutual cooperation of all units with steady, persevering toil.
 4. Exuded calm confidence - knew who they were and what they were to do.
 5. Restoration of walls referred to via metaphor derived from the healing of a wound.
 6. People had a mind to work.
- C. Summary
1. Lit. their heart was in it.
 2. All the wall was joined - no gaps.
 3. With our mind to work we can do most anything.
 4. God uses the "willing mind" II Cor. 8:12.

5. Pray - willing mind - busy hands will quickly rebuild the wall.

South Harpeth - 11/7/00



There's A Sure Pattern for Building Success

Neh. 4:7-23

- I. Always the progress of the church meets the opposition of her enemies.
 - A. Is it possible against great odds to be successful?
 - B. Does the Bible give a pattern of successful accomplishments?
 - C. What better event than Nehemiah and rebuilding Jerusalem's wall.
 1. A captured people have returned.
 2. The wall is in disarray with rubbish everywhere.
 3. The enemies are multitudinous.
 - a) Arabians, Ammonites, Ashdodites, Sanballat and Tobiah (Neh.4:7).
 - b) Anger, mockery, wrath, indignation, ridicule felt by enemies.
 - c) Read Nehemiah 4:2-3.
 - D. Yet the wall was rebuilt!
 1. Cooperative effort - "we."
 2. Praying leader.
 3. People had a mind to work (v.6).
 - II. Just how did they do it?
 - A. A great leader raised his prayer.
v.9 - "We made our prayer unto our God."
- Ps.127:1 God will fight for us.
1. Great faith and trust.
 2. Want to do God's will.

B. He set a watch - v.9.

1. Prayer must be joined by our effort.

Matt.26:41 "Watch and pray."

2. We cannot tempt God to do it all.
3. Watchfulness without prayer is made to slight God.
4. Watchfulness with prayer brings his protection.
5. Faced the discouragement of some brethren.

v.10 "The strength of the bearer of burden there it much rubbish. We are not able to build."

6. Heard the report ten times (v.12).
7. Knew enemy sought to "hinder" (v.8) that is to do it hurt - rare word.
8. Enemy "conspired all of them together to fight against Jerusalem" (v.8).
9. Was aware of enemy plans.
 - a) Come when shall not know.
 - b) Come in midst to slay them.
 - c) Cause work to cease (v.11).
 - d) Threaten to come unexpectedly anytime.
10. We do well to face knowingly our opposition, as we grapple with brethren discouragement and enemy opposition.

III. Nehemiah's Plan of Opposition

A. Set men in lower places behind the wall (v.13).

1. Here annoy enemy with this breast work.
2. Motivates them by family loyalty.
3. One snowflake is not much, but when they cooperate it takes a bulldozer to move them.

B. Set men in higher places.

1. To be seen by enemies.
2. Posted in conspicuous places so that at a distance it looked imposing.
3. After their families with swords, spears, and bows (v.13) each man fights for his own family.
4. From advantage of wall throw down things on enemy.
5. Spot not unnoticed by enemies.
6. To see well-armed cadre would inspire all.

C. Spoke words of encouragement.

v.14 Be not afraid of them.

Remember the Lord.

Fight for your brethen, sons, daughter

1. Imperative have a great leader.
2. He needs to be with the people night and day.
3. Tell them the enemies knew of our success (v.15).

4. Prayer and trust no strange dichotomy.

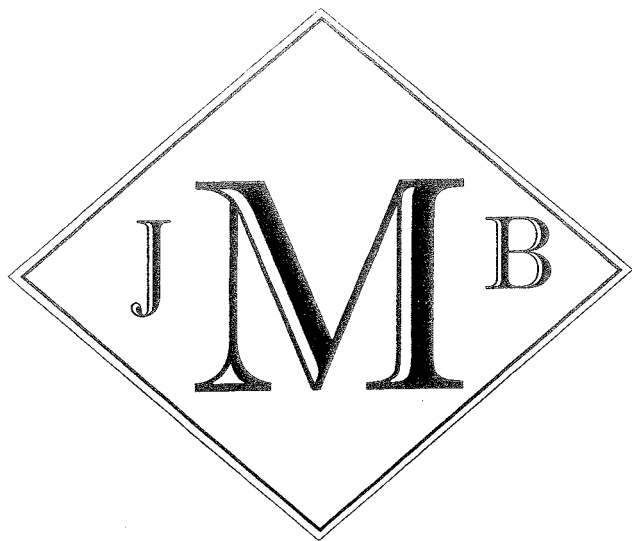
D. His Defensive Precaution

1. Half at work.
2. Half held a spear, shield, bows, habergeons (cloth with armor sewed on).
3. Rulers behind them.
4. Some watched, some worked.
5. Worked early, worked late, all classes important.
6. Trowel in one hand, sword in another.
7. Work is large and we are scattered so got man with trumpet that could immediately summon to any hot spot.
8. Could meet any sudden attack.
9. Reassured "Our God shall fight for us" (v.21), Ps.127: 1
10. Labored from rising of the morning til the stars appeared (v.21).
11. Everyone stayed in Jerusalem lest they failed to return.
12. Didn't take off clothes except for washing.
13. Recall "this land promised to them!"
14. Constant state of readiness.
15. Used everybody.
16. No enemy could say "Our God will fight for us."

IV. Success his.

Neh. 4:6 "So built we the wall."

" For the people had a mind to
work."



6 HOURS OF GLORY

Neh. 8:1-3

- I. Now and then those electrifying moments come.
 - A. Claude Flynn thanked Dalraida for record-breaking support.
 - B. Alan Bryan said 1,600 registered at White Bluff 1st day. *# come 13 yr. Brothers*
 - C. Ezra had a great joy--Neh. 8. *Neh.*
 1. I want to tell you this story.
 2. Why can't we duplicate it today?

II. Neh. 8 - Let's Read Together.

A. Start c Neh. 7:73.

1. 7th Month - start of new civil year - 1st day New Year. *Special time means something.*
2. Where in their cities - expectantly?
3. God was fulfilling His promise to get them home from captivity.
4. Was it like New Yr. Resolutions?

B. Jerusalem gathering.

were supposed to read law every 7 yrs. - neglected in captivity

1. All the people.
 - a.) Both men & women (V. 2)
 - b.) All that could hear c understanding (V. 4).
 - (1) See parents & children. *Blessing to see people*
 - (2) Come then c your babies. *went the word of*
 - (3) Child T = Trouble instead of Tent Maker. *revive the practice*
 - c.) Were as one man.
 - (1) Unanimity.
 - (2) Eager to learn.
 - (3) Together in unity.
 - d.) Street before water gate.

(1) Public.

(2) Eastern gate - between temple & city wall.

(3) Temple to Kidron.

e.) Asked Ezra to "bring the books of the Law."

(1) Asked for instruction.

(2) Weren't keeping law but yearned for it.

(3) Not content w/o Word.

*L150's MT w/o
008*

f.) Ezra "brot the Word."

(1) At once responded.

(2) Didn't suggest "you can't understand it - too hard."

(3) He was prepared & ready - statesmen necessary, so are preachers & teachers!

2. 6 Glorious Hours.

a.) From morning till midday. Lit. "from the light" - dawn.

b.) All ages & sex came.

(1) Scriptures fit for everyone.

(2) All can learn something.

(3) No Book equal to this one.

c.) Ears of all attentive.

1.) Lit. ears "were to the book."

2.) Fixed on that & nothing else.



3. The Mechanics.

a.) Ezra and a pulpit.

Platform - hold 14 books

(1) He was above all (V. 5).

(2) 1st reference in Bible to a pulpit.

(3) Physical arrangements can help or hurt.

b.) Ezra had helpers.

(1) Don't know whether priest or not.

c.) Opened book in sight of people.

d.) All people stood up.

(1) Expression of honor.

e.) Ezra blessed the Lord.

(1) He gave thanx.

(2) Do we come c gratitude?

f.) People reacted.

(1) Amen, Amen.

(a) Repetition - intense feeling.

(2) Lifted hands.

(3) Bowed heads.

(4) Worshipped c face to ground.

((a)) People reverent.

((b)) People attentive.

((c)) People persistent - 6 hrs. stood in their place.

g.) Levites caused people to understand.

(1) Read distinctively.

a.) Lit. to expand.

b.) Analyze, dilate.

c.) Be clear.

(2) Gave sense.

a.) Translate.

b.) Explain.

c.) Lit. "put weight to it."

d.) Show value.

e.) Show application.

(3) Caused to understand.

(1) Expounded as paused in Reading.

h.) People stood in their places.

4. People cried.

a.) Neh. the Tirshatha (governor) & Ezra (scribe & priest) said not to.

b.) Holy - Happy Day. *Word moved them to see their sins, painful*

(1) Go & enjoy self.

(2) No fasting.

(3) Remember poor.

c.) Word has variant reaction.

(1) Josiah rent clothes 2 Kings 22:1.

(2) People wept.

(3) Conflicting emotions come.

(4) Are we emotionless?

d.) Do we have joy, happiness, a sharing delight?

e.) Do we let the poor have reason to rejoice - does worship help us help others?

III. What Was the Reaction & Lasting Effect?

A. Came back on 2nd Day. *Ezra! More than demanded*

Ps. 119:97 "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation

1. Appetite increased.

2. Growth desired.

3. Read what was pertinent to current duty - Booths.

B. Discovered they were not keeping Booths as commanded.

Lev. 23:4 "Proclaim it"

1. We can drift in ignorance of Word.

2. Neglect is harmful.

3. Hadn't been done since Joshua.

C. Obedied (V. 16).

1. Individually.

2. Exactly - Follow w/o question.

3. Gladly.

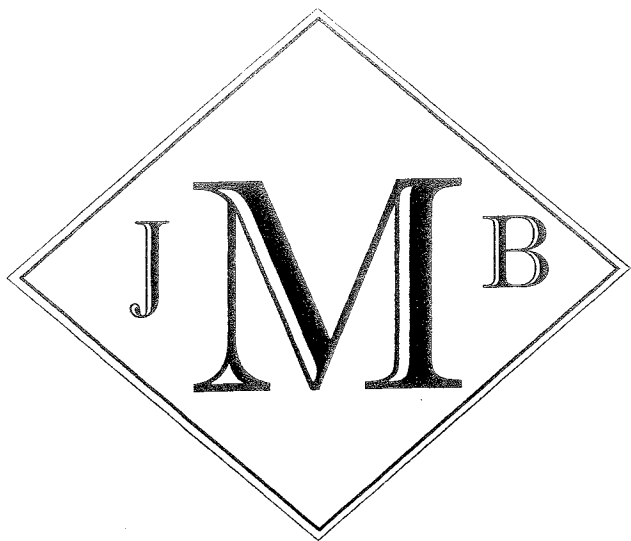
Restoration Principle

4. Promptly.

5. Continuously - day by day (18).

- West End 4-27-80
- Pleasant Valley Church, Little Rock, Ark. 4-27-80
- Valley Forge Family Encampment Class, Villanova, Pa. 6-25-80
- Western Hills Church, Temple, Texas 8-17-80

- 2nd Spiritual Intensive Care Workshop, Gateway Church, Southgate, Mich. 9-10-80
- Old Union Church 11-10-80
- Locust Grove 7-15-81
- Acton Church, Michie, TN 7-26-81
- Hillwood Valley Church, Hurricane Mills 8-23-81
- Avondale Church, Decatur, Ga. 10-12-81
- Una Church 5-10-83



WOULD NEHEMIAH BE FIRED?

Nehemiah 13

- I. The question is: Would Nehemiah be fired if today he preached what he did in his lifetime centuries ago? Depending on his supervisors:
- A. Yes, he would, if they were of this permissive world.
 - B. Yes, he would, if elders in the church knew compromise above conviction as they lead a weak church.
 - C. No, he would not if elders against pressure and kinship held the line for ancient truth.
 - D. Thus I've answered "Yes" and "No"--one time I've been right!
 - E. Let's see what he preached and seek truthfully our answer.
 - 1. It will be based on Chapter 13.
 - 2. Though not all of his program:
 - 1) Getting permission from Persia to return;
 - 2) Rebuild the wall;
 - 3) Getting the people to have a mind to work. We'll content ourselves with Chapter 13 and thus close OT history.
- II. From Chapter 13: *The one took authority*
- A. Hear the word, understand it, and obey it (v. 1-3).
 - 1. Day--particular time uncertain.
 - 2. Read Moses
 - a) Hearing precipitated a certain action.
 - b) Word has a bearing on our lives.

3. Found written
 - a) Preserved
 - b) Like 2 edged sword.
4. Ammonites, Moabites not in the congregation.
 - a) This a long time ago.
 - b) Matter compromised.
 - c) Reading triggered an oversight that needed conviction.
5. Heard law--they separated.
 - a) When they saw error were moved to immediate action.
 - b) Whom do we disfellowship?
 - (1) Nationalist--no
 - (2) Errorist

Tim. 1:9-11 (Read) - Music Clip

B. Correction of leaders who take advantage of one's absence (v. 4-9).

1. Work of Eliashib.
 - a) His identity uncertain.
 - b) A priestly family thinks nothing of an Ammonite living in the temple court.
 - c) Not told how this alliance developed.
 - d) See the power of one person, a new elder for instance.
 - e) Let not private friendship hurt the cause.
2. Tobiah's position to use the great chamber--note "before this."
 - a) Influence so great not a word spoken against him.
 - b) Not only an alien but an enemy.

- c) Used temple to store his stuff.
- d) Tithing neglected--no place to put offerings.
- e) Evidently not expecting Nehemiah's quick return.
- f) People not complaining about neglect of giving.

3. Nehemiah's absence.

- a) No one knows how long he's been away.
- b) One person makes a lot of difference--the cop on the block--445 years before Christ.
- c) Nehemiah had to ask permission to return--had Eliashib thought he might not?
- d) Grieved me sore--are we grieved by error?
- e) "Nothing so cruel as undue leniency in the presence of sin." (P.C.)

4. Nehemiah initiated a cleansing.

- a) Grief demands an expulsion.
- b) His aim was to restore room to its former intended usage.
- c) Put the vessels back where they belong.

C. Restoration of Scriptural Service (verse 10-14).

- 1. Levites paid and positioned.
 - a) Complacency in worship.
 - b) Neglected spiritual leaders.

2. "Why is the house of God forsaken?"
 - a) Means "unprovided for."
 - b) Weary with work? Like world and ease? Hard to draw line?
3. "Set them in their place"
 - a) "Heal the stream by healing the spring." (Henry)
 - b) Restored tithing.
 - c) Appointed men who were faithful (v-13).
 - (1) Carefully chosen.
 - (2) Men of integrity.
 - (3) Represented men who chiefly benefitted from the system.
 - (4) "Holiness is not negotiable. There's some issues where failure to draw the line will lead to general decline. In a position of strength & security it's possible to help, forgive, and welcome in weakness both parties that will think together." (Williamson)
4. The 1st "Remember Me."
 - a) Depiction of God's memory as a slate on which all men's deeds are recorded.
 - b) Prays his care for the temple and its services will not be blotted out, wiped off, wiped away-- hence erased.
 - c) God won't forget.

- d) His prayer reflects satisfaction with his work.
- e) Each paragraph rounded off by "Remember Me"--v. 14,22,31--verse 29 different about enemies.
- f) How many deeds done for God are on our slate?

D. Sanctification of the Sabbath (v.15-22)

1. Violation of worship requirements.
2. Tread winepresses on Sabbath.
 - a) Floors hewn out of rock.
 - b) Juice of grapes trodden out.
 - c) Allowed to ferment in settling basins before decanted & stored.
3. Some Tyre trading on Sabbath--all manner of ware--sold to children of Israel.
4. Contention with Nobles.
 - a) Held them responsible.
 - b) "But we are not working--they are--we only buy."
5. Called it evil, failure to learn history, brings wrath of God.
6. Shut gates, appointed men to watch.
7. Merchants set up outside gates--maybe Jews would come outside and trade--ever an inducement to compromise--Flaunt spirit.
8. Do it again lay hands on you. Remove you physically!
9. Remember money is a strong pull. It hurts our worship.

10. Stop worship in temple & Sabbath be profaned.
11. Second "Remember Me."
 - a) Did not trust merit alone.
 - b) Asked for mercy--do not erase.
 - c) We don't get God in our debt.
12. Are our Sundays given to glory of God?

E. Improper Marriage Attack (v. 23-28)

1. Jews married wives of Ashdod, Ammon and Moah.
2. Ammon east of Judah with a natural boundry.
3. Moab (Ruth from here) no common border.
4. Only speech of Ashdod mentioned.
5. Shocked at marriage and speech of children--untaught!
6. "For a religion in which scripture plays a central part, the grasp of language is vital." (Williamson)
7. Fathers had not done proper job of teaching. (Barry Brewer's family stand, hold hands, pray at meals and so does dog).
8. Can our children tell why we sing and don't play?
9. Contend--curse--smote--plucked--made to swear.
 - a) Curse--excommunicate.
 - b) Pluck--like you would a bird--can't cut but can pull--few bald spots in Israel.

(Not shave unscripted not Pluck)

- c) Smote--whipped.
 - d) Swear--bind by an oath.
10. Solomon cited.
- a) History is important.
 - b) So is example.
 - c) Mercy given.
 - d) "Outlandish women cause sin."
11. H.P. son-in-law was also Sanballat's son-in-law.
12. I chased him--got the boot.
13. Next "Remember them."
- a) Defiled priesthood--calls for a purification of priesthood.
 - b) Good men and good methods essential to reform.
 - c) See Williamson card.
14. Wood Offerings--without which temple services would stop.
15. Final - "Remember Me"
- a) Same petition as thief on cross.
 - b) For good--more what God's done than what I have.
16. Thus closes last word from Nehemiah and Old Testament history.
- a) Some satisfaction with his work.
 - b) Don't work for the smiles of men but favor of God.
 - c) Let our lives be filled with deeds God can bless--if so, they are good.

1. Cite word - obey it - Regardless
2. Correct leaders who take advantage of absences
3. Restore Scriptural Service
4. Sanctify Sabbath 5. End proper Marriages

We remember these abuses were to recur time and again in latter years. Clearly external measures were inadequate and the last resort to control the perversities of the human heart.

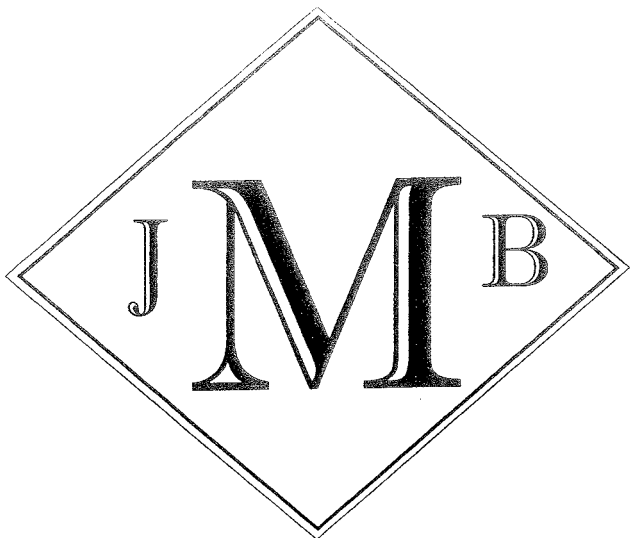
The major topics dealt with in this section--Sabbath observation, preservation of a strong cultural and religious solidarity, examples of leadership in the community's religious life, or all at the heart of Judaism's distinctive identity at its best. Without this, its witness to the world would have been lost and there would simply have been no contacts within which the work and the teaching to Jesus could have had any meaning.

A passage such as this serves as a powerful reminder of the dilemma that constantly confronts the Christian church over the points at which precisely it too should draw the lines of demarcation.

(OVER)

It is never easy to be sure on which issue a Christian dare not compromise, and we may well feel that in general its positive witness is to be preferred to a negative attitude, yet ultimately both are necessary as the role of the disciples as both light and salt make plain. Should the church ever become completely indistinguishable from the world, she would no longer be able to function as its servant.

--Williamson



THROW THE RASCALS OUT

Neh. 13:1-9

I. By the title you'd think I was campaigning for public office.

A. I do think a good housecleaning helps now and then.

B. I also know life has its disruptions & severences.

C. But I want to take Nine verses of Neh. 13 and see one dozen spiritual truths.

II. Let me quickly tell you the gist of the event--summarize it.

III. Now let's move to One Dozen Spiritual Truths.

A. 1st we must learn the lesson of timeliness.

v-1 "On that day"

1. Not sure which one it was but they were and acted at the right time.

2. All this about 450 BC.

B. Secondly we see the Power of the Understood Word.

v-1 "They read in the book of Moses"

1. Note the people heard it--you can trust the common man.

2. Women are very perceptive.

3. There has to be a standard by which things are gauged.

4. God has given a message, like unto no other, that is to govern our lives.

C. Thirdly, the word reveals the mind & will of God.

v-1-2A "Therein was found written"

1. God didn't consult with any of us as to what He wanted -- it's His voice.
2. He spoke his wish.

Deut. 23:3-6

3. He has reason for what He does.
4. Said Ammonite & Moabite could not come into the congregation of the Lord forever.
 - a) That means full rights & membership.
 - b) Yet Ruth in lineage of Jesus.
 - c) Evidently his grace received the obedient.
 - d) But here we have an enemy Ammonite, named Tobiah, in the temple of God!

D. Fourthly, see God's ability to reverse man's meanness.

v-2 "Howbeit our God turned the curse"

1. He moves in mysterious ways.
2. He's opened Eastern Europe.
3. He can overrule.

Gen. 45:8 "So now it was not you that sent"

Gen. 50:20 "But as for you, ye thought evil"

E. Fifthly, Scriptures Inspire Obedience.

v-3 "Now it came to pass when they had"

1. Reading the law triggered recognition of an oversight.
2. God's word cuts lilke a two-edged sword against evil.
3. It's courageous when an error is seen immediately the honest are moved to correction.

4. Thus because the word was read an action was forthcoming.
5. They felt God meant what he said.
6. Surely no one thinks the expulsion of the mixed multitude was pleasant or easy.
7. That mixed multitude can corrupt the pure.

Nu. 11:4 "And the mixt multitude"

8. Association is a powerful force.

F. Sixthly, Peer Pressure & Nepotism cuts a wide swath.

v-4 & 5 (Read)

1. A prominent Jew compromises his office.
2. Tobiah given free reign to usurp the temple store room to the exclusion of the Levites who were not paid and had to go to the farm to work (v-10).
3. Things are pretty low when a priestly family thinks nothing of an Ammonite living in the temple court.
4. Tobiah's influence so great none said aught against him.
5. We are not told how Tobiah got in with Eliashib.
6. His grandson was Sanballat's son-in-law.
7. Tobiah not only an alien but an enemy.
8. We are sensitive to peer pressure.

G. Seventh, Religion costs something.

v-5 "Tithes of corn, new wine, oil"

1. It's not a free ride.
2. Starve out those who teach as Levites had to go to the farm, (v-70) and your store house will be empty.

H. Eighth, Power of Absenteeism

v-16 "But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem"

1. Eliashib took advantage of Nehemiah's absence.
2. We can't abdicate our role as parents, Christians, elders.
3. Your presence--like the cop on the block--means something.
4. Curfew is proper.
5. Individual men have a great power for good or evil.

I. Ninth, Leadership has to grasp the situation.

v-7 "I came--I understood"

1. How can one correct what he does not understand?
2. Nehemiah got the picture.

J. Tenth, He felt the Error.

v-8 "It grieved me sore."

1. He was not nonchalant.
2. He felt it.
3. Does anything grieve us anymore?
4. Pray about it, do something or will it just go away?

K. Eleventh, He threw the Rascal Out.

v-8 "Therefore I cast forth all the"

1. Nothing so cruel as undue leniency in the presence of sin.

2. George Benson, "Not always right but never in doubt." (John Stevens)
3. What do we expel?

a) Nationality

Gal. 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor GK"

b) Those who reject essential truths.

1 Tim. 1:20 "Hymenaeus & Alex...I delivered"

2 Jn. 9-10 "Whosoever transgresseth"

Rev. 2:14-17 (READ)

c) The immoral (1 Cor. 5:11).

d) The impenitent offender.

Matt. 18:15-17

e) The divisive.

Rom. 16:17

f) The disorderly.

2 Thess. 3:6 "Now we commend you"

g) The disobedient.

2 Thess. 3:14 "And if any man"

~~L. Twelfth, There Came a Housecleaning.~~

v-9 "Then I commanded & they cleaned"

1. Nehemiah stopped their gross profanation.

2. If we have given up the chamber of our hearts to any Tobiah, we too must expel it.

IV. Summation

1. Timelines

2. Power of Word

3. Word reveals mind of God

4. God can reverse matters

5. Word inspires obedience

6. Peer Pressure Real

7. Religion costs

8. Power of Absentism

9. Leadership Crasps Picture

10. " feels

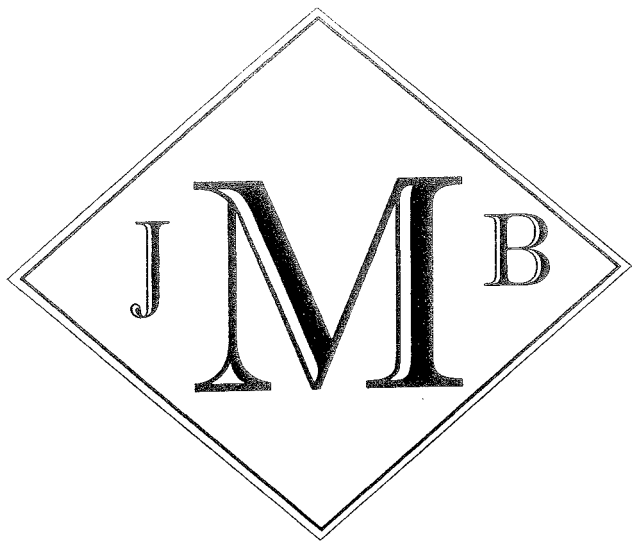
11. leaders expell error

12. Clean House

Hendersonville, TN - 6/28/92

Benton, KY (Ladies Class) - 11/18/92

6.



SOUND FAMILIAR?

Neh. 13:10-31

I. Obvious facts.

- A. Past is prologue.
- B. Goes around comes around.
- C. Ever the need of inventory and consequent correction.

II. O.T. history ends with this chapter.

- A. We see Nehemiah lead reform.
- B. We see what he corrected.
- C. We see the need today for courageous leadership as problems are faced and corrected.
- D. We see 5 problems addressed and feel they in principal are here today--thus does it sound familiar?

III. 5 Corrections

- A. Restoration of Levites' rights.
 - 1. Leaders had not been paid.
 - 2. Must restore tithe.
 - 3. Neglect of spiritual leaders led to complacency in worship.
 - 4. When the house of God is forsaken there are reasons this occurs.
Why so today?
 - a) Do we leave missionaries in the lurch?
 - b) Do we suddenly abandon the poor?
 - 5. Some people withheld tithes due to malversations of Eli.
 - 6. Are we fretted at preachers today?
Salary? Fervor? Conduct?
Teaching?

7. Do we forsake because:
 - a) Prefer society of the world?
 - b) Weary from 2 jobs?
 - c) Dislike worship hours?
 - d) Dislike fellow worshippers?
8. Why be faithful?
 - a) God demands it?
 - b) Good for families?
 - c) Blessing to the state?
 - d) Account in hereafter?
9. Then he said a very humble thing.

v-14 "Remember me, O my God."

- a) God doesn't forget.

Heb. 6:10

- b) Deeds done for God are good deeds.
- c) Wipe not out shows his humility.
- d) His prayer also reflects a sense of personal satisfaction with his work.

B. 2nd problem--profaning Sabbath.

1. Earlier had agreed not to trade on Sabbath.

Neh. 10:31

2. All kinds of food (v-5) now sold on Sabbath.
3. Needed the rest it brought and worship.

Exo. 34:21

4. Comes an incriminating word:

v-17 "Then I contended with the nobles..."

- a) Leaders could have stopped the violation.

- b) Reminds leaders it was Sabbath abuse that led to their exile-- will we never learn?
- c) When leaders are careless followers will be, too.

- 5. When we abuse the Lord's day, we have trouble.
- 6. It opens the way for other wrongs.
- 7. We must zealously maintain our worship of God.

C. Thirdly, he met those who tried to ignore and slip by. (v-19-22)

- 1. Some set up stalls outside wall.
 - a) Bend the rule a little.
 - b) Money call is strong.
- 2. Ignore needs.

Heb. 4:9

Phil. 4:7

- 3. Do we see how much we can get by with?
- 4. He set up his police.
 - a) He was exacting and detailed in his work to stop abuse.
 - b) Threatened to arrest them. (He wants to be sure his orders are carried out.)
 - c) Levites his faithful guards.
 - d) He'll lay hands and imprison.
- 5. Yet with this sternness see his need of mercy.

v-22 "Remember me, O my God."

- a) Expected nothing from God by through the greatness of His mercy.

b) Though he did what pleased God, he could not rely on human merit.

c) Are all our deeds "for good"?

D. 4th problem--wrong marriages.

(v 23-29)

1. Married out of the faith.

2. Children affected.

a) Ashdod coastal strip in the West.

b) Half spoke (do ours know why we sing, for instance)

c) Children learn much from parents--good or bad.

d) We need to watch their tongues.

3. Go back to mixed marriages.

a) A real problem.

b) H P could not intermarry.

Lev. 21:13-15

(only virgin of own people)

c) Ezra had expelled foreign wives 20 years earlier.

d) Prevent consistent family government.

e) Rob of the highest happiness.

4. Enacted stern measures.

a) Divorce?

b) v-25

1) Curse--excommunicate

2) Cut hair--disgrace

3) Pluck hair alive like you would a bird.

4) Smote.

5) Bind with oath.

5. 2 examples.
 - a) Solomon (v 26-27)
 - b) Joiada

E. Cleanse the priesthood.

1. They need to be pure.
2. Without wood temple service stops.
3. We must check ourselves and our motives.
4. Heal the stream by healing the spring.

IV. So!

- A. Good men and good mothers are necessary to lasting success.
- B. Don't look for men's smiles, but God's upon you.
- C. Last cry of O.T. history--
"Remember me, O my God, for good."
- D. We battle enemies without and within.

