



# Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

## REBUILDING my BROKEN WORLD



Through Nehemiah

## No Compromise Nehemiah 13:1-31

*“J. Wilbur Chapman relates this story about a group of mountain climbers in the Swiss Alps. A company of tourists were climbing together one day. It was a great day and they made rapid progress until, suddenly, one of them slipped. They were all tied together; so when one began to fall, he took the second man down with him – then the third and the fourth and the fifth and the sixth. They were on the edge of catastrophe; it appeared all of them would be pulled over the precipice and fall to their deaths. But their guide knew exactly what to do. He thrust a large ice pick deep into the ice. As the tightening rope got to him with an incredible yank and strain, he held onto the ice pick with all his might and held his ground, saving the lives of the other climbers. Chapman used that story to describe the same man we have been studying: Nehemiah. He was like a guide to God’s people. He was the man who held his ground.”<sup>a</sup>*

The people of God had made commitments, and Nehemiah left. **Nehemiah 10:30-32** – “We will not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons; if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath... Also, we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God.” Once returning, he finds that they have not fulfilled their covenant.

### I. **They Compromised with Outsiders (13:1-9)**

“If you trace the Ammonites and the Moabites back to their beginnings, you will discover that they are relatives of the Israelites. Ammon and Moab, the founders of these countries, were the sons of Lot, the nephew of Abraham... These two men founded tribes and nations by those names. So Ammon and Moab are relatives – and sworn enemies – of the Israelites... [they] were nothing but trouble... The Ammonites and Moabites constantly harassed, corrupted, polluted, and undermined Israel.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> David Jeremiah, *Ten Steps to Spiritual Renewal* (San Diego, CA: Turning Point, 2015), 232.

<sup>b</sup> Ray Stedman, *God’s Blueprint for Success* (Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House, 2017), 221-222.

The most miserable person is not the lost person who is living like a lost person. It's not the saved person who is living like a saved person. The most miserable person is the saved person who is living like a lost person. They have the new life of Christ within (2 Cor. 5:17) yet they are being squeezed by the influence of the world (Romans 12:2).

See 2 Chronicles 16:9; Romans 12:1-2; John 17:14-18; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 John 2:15-17

## II. They Neglected Tithing (13:10-13)

Nehemiah 13:11 – “So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place. Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and oil to the storehouse.”

## III. They Disobeyed the Sabbath (13:15-22)

Repentance should be swift. Don't delay. Read 1 John 1:9. Keep short accounts with God. Nehemiah prayed (v.22) after he the cleansing of the Sabbath (vv.15-22). When God's Word is clear, you don't have to pray about obeying it. Simply obey!

## IV. They Intermarried with the Pagans (13:23-31)

See 2 Corinthians 6:14

**Extra: What happens when Christians marry non-believers? <sup>c</sup>**

- 1) Ignorance of Scripture (13:23-24)
- 2) Incompatibility within family (13:25)
- 3) Impurity in the heart (13:26)
- 4) Impediment to the truth (13:27-28)
- 5) Indifference to worship (13:29)

### **STARTING NEXT WEEK:**

A new series on overcoming the toxic emotions in our lives.

You will gain insight and encouragement to help yourself or others you love from God's Word!

September 8th:

***Overcoming Anger***



<sup>c</sup> Adapted from David Moore, “Five Common Problems in Marrying the Wrong Person”