

Celebration 8:45
Pastor David Mitchell
December 7, 2008



RENEW OUR PASSION

Nehemiah 13

- Renew your passion to a commitment of living by God's Word. Nehemiah 13:1-9
Malachi 2:1-9; II Timothy 2:14, 15

- Renew your passion for biblical stewardship of giving to God's work. Nehemiah 13:10-14; Malachi 3:8-10

- Renew your passion for keeping a holy day of worship to God. Nehemiah 13:15-22

- Renew your passion for living in purity in your marriage and relationships. Nehemiah 13:23-31

Summary thoughts: People are the same, whether 400 BC or 2008.

1. We can easily drift toward spiritual apathy and disobedience over time.
2. We need a constant reminder of God's Word and someone to keep us accountable.
3. Godly leadership is hard and constant; you are never done helping another grow, whether a parent, teacher, or pastor.
4. Even those in spiritual leadership will fail to live by God's standards. We must keep them accountable as well.
5. Sinful temptations do not leave on their own; we must resist and remove them. Sin will always seek new ways to enter into your life.
6. We must constantly be in prayer to seek God's will and power. Nehemiah consistently called on God as he challenged the people. We must pray as well. Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 29, 31

--what do you want God to remember for you, for good?

Digging Deeper in Nehemiah 13

Nehemiah learns how easily we can slip into spiritual apathy and disobedience to God. In this chapter, after Nehemiah had been governor of Jerusalem for around 12 years, he returned to the King in Persia and stayed there for a number of years, perhaps two. During those years, the Jewish people fell back into sin. Upon his return he confronts them all boldly. They had signed a covenant to live for the Lord and be obedient to His Word. But, sadly, like so many even today, they did not live up to their commitment to God. The spiritual leaders and people disregarded and disobeyed God's Word by allowing Tobiah, an Ammonite, to have a place in the Temple. **Nehemiah 13:4-9**. Such sin was tolerated by the spiritual leader and nobody was doing anything about it, except Nehemiah and Malachi, who was a prophet about the same time. Nehemiah would renew the Jews' passion in the following areas.

1st Renew your passion for God's Word.

Read what Malachi said about God's Word in his book, **Malachi 2:1-9**. What lessons can you learn from his challenge to know and live by the Word?

What does **II Timothy 2:14, 15** say regarding man's words and God's Words? Which "words" influence you the most?

In **Nehemiah 6:1**, Tobiah is called an enemy, and yet they allowed him to take up a place in the Temple. What does **James 4:4, 5** say are the enemies of God today?

Nehemiah physically tossed Tobiah and his stuff out of the Temple. What do you need to throw from your life to live more obediently to the Word?

2nd Nehemiah confronted the people about the biblical stewardship of giving to God's work in Nehemiah 13:10-14

What challenge did Malachi make to them and you in his book, **Malachi 3:8-10**? In what ways are you giving to God's work as Malachi taught? Are you willing to "**test**" God by giving as He commands?

Read **II Corinthians 9:5-8**. Review the following guidelines for giving and evaluate if this reflects your stewardship. How are you practicing giving in this way?

--Giving should be based on a commitment to the Lord. **Vs. 5; II Corinthians 8:5**

--Giving should be a thoughtfully arranged amount. **Vs. 5**

--Giving should be a response of my worship. **Vs. 6** Bountiful is the Greek word **eulogia** which means to give a blessing or praise to God. Our English word eulogy comes from it. How is your giving saying good things about God and a form of praise to Him?

--Giving should come as a cheerful willing sacrificial gift. **Vs. 7; II Corinthians 8:9**

--Giving flows from the provision of God's grace in my life. **vs. 8**

3rd Renew your passion for a holy day of worship.

The business people kept calling to the Jews to neglect the Sabbath day. **Nehemiah 13:19, 20**

What areas of life are calling to you to skip a time of worshipping God? Do you keep Sunday a sanctified day of worship to God?

4th Renew your passion for holiness in your marriage and relationships. Nehemiah 13:23-31

What areas, if any, need to be confessed as sin to restore a holy walk in your relationships?

