

30 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Nehemiah Chapter 13

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to correct a close friend?
2. According to verse 1 which two groups were not allowed to enter the assembly of God? (**Ammonites and Moabites**).
3. What was the reason given in verse 2? (**They did not meet the children of Israel with bread and water, and Balaam cursed them**).
4. According to Nehemiah 2:10, who was Tobiah? (**Tobiah was an Ammonite official; who opposed Nehemiah's (God's) work**).

 Let's go deeper

5. According to verse 11; what was forsaken by Israel? (**The house of God**).
6. According to verse 17; what was being ignored by Israel? (**To keep the sabbath day as holy**).
7. According to verse 26; who caused the great king Solomon to sin? (**Pagan women caused him to sin**).
8. According to verse 27; what was the great evil, Nehemiah referred to? (**Transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women**).

 Let's apply this

9. In Nehemiah 10 the people made a covenant to God that they will stop to:

1. Have ungodly romantic relationships (Nehemiah 10:30).
2. Buy and sell on the Sabbath (Nehemiah 10:31).
3. Fail to support the work of God with money as He commanded (Neh.10:32).

In Nehemiah 13; some 10 – 12 years later, Israel was again in the sins they vowed to stop, and God used Nehemiah to restore God's Word.

- Are there sins in your life that you have allowed back in your spiritual life? Allow the grace and truth of Jesus Christ to bring freedom and wholeness.

SUMMARY:

Read: Nehemiah 13:1 – 31; Deuteronomy 23:3 – 4.

- **The book of Nehemiah chapter 13:**

v.1 – 2; Hearing the law brings a call to obedience. As the people drew near to God in worship (as seen in Nehemiah 11 and 12), they became aware of God's standards. In this case the standard stated in Deuteronomy 23:3-4, where the Ammonites and Moabites were not to be regarded as part of Israel (unless they converted to the worship of Israel's God).

v.3; The mixed multitude refers to those who wanted to associate with the people of Israel but did not make a full commitment nor embrace the covenant.

v.4 – 9; Nehemiah transforms the temple. **v.6;** indicates that Nehemiah left Jerusalem and went back to his duties in the Persian court. He was gone from Jerusalem for anywhere from 10 to 12 years. **v.7;** When Nehemiah came back, he saw that Eliashib the priest had entered into agreements with one of the enemies of Nehemiah's work of rebuilding the wall – the man named Tobiah. Tobiah was an Ammonite (Nehemiah 2:10) – one of the very mixed multitude that had been put out of the assembly of God's people 10 years before. **v.8 – 9;** It grieved Nehemiah.

v.10 – 14; Financial reforms. Nehemiah set the situation right by expecting the Levites and the singers to recommit to the work of serving God and His people as they should. He also reorganized the collection, accounting, and distribution of the people's tithes and gifts.

v.15 – 22; The Sabbath was being ignored in disobedience to God's clear command under the Old Covenant. On the Sabbath day when they were supposed to rest and trust God, foreigners sold, and the people of Israel bought.

v.23 – 31; In the years Nehemiah was away the Israelites had resumed their practice of intermarrying with the pagan nations surrounding them. This was in dramatic disobedience to God's command. His example of Solomon is well taken (**Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things... pagan women caused even him to sin**). If Solomon, one of the wisest and most blessed men ever, sinned with unwise and ungodly romance then no one else should consider themselves invulnerable.

In **Nehemiah 10** the people made a covenant to God that they would stop to:

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- Buy and sell on the Sabbath (Nehemiah 10:31).
- Fail to support the work of God with money as He commanded (Neh. 10:32-39).

In Nehemiah 13; some 10 years later, Israel was again in the sins they vowed to stop