

Neh 19 – Light the Fire Again – Neh 13:1-14

Pastor Dave Shepardson, Calvary Chapel Nuevo, www.wordbymail.com

As we prepare to wrap up Nehemiah - It's important for us to take a LOOK BACK at WHY we started this book

We actually came to the book of Nehemiah in RESPONSE to the REFOCUSING of this Ministry

Back to our One, Primary, All-Encompassing FOCUS

It's been almost A YEAR – Since we “Took a Stand” & Refocused Everything we do here - on THIS ONE PURPOSE

*“Making Fully Devoted, Reproducing Followers of Jesus Christ”*

That's the Wall of Testimony  
we we're originally SENT HERE to BUILD

& that's the Wall of Testimony  
we REFOCUSSED this ministry on LAST YEAR

But - - maybe you're saying  
***WHY did we have to REFOCUS the Ministry ??***

WHY did we have to GET BACK to DOING  
what we were Originally DOING in the first place ??

WHY the need to SHAKE things up so much ??

WHY did things have to CHANGE ???

ARRRGGGG – We HATE CHANGE !!!

You know – all the **big church management** books tell us  
**Be careful** with Change – People don't like change  
If you want to keep people in the seats – **Don't Change** anything

& **apparently** – those **Church Psychology** guys are **RIGHT**

But I **really need** you to **HEAR** what I'm about to say right now  
About out **REFOCUS** on **Discipleship**

In **NEH CH 13** - We are going to see  
a **SHOCK WAVE** of **REFOCUS**

That makes **EVERYTHING** we've done here  
look like **ZERO CHANGE** - & - **ZERO SHAKE UP**

**Nehemiah starts by Literally THROWING stuff around**

The he Totally **CONFRONTS the leaders**

& **makes Radical Changes** in the House of God

Then he **LOCKS OUT** the business men, just trying to make a living

& then threatens to **Physically LAY HANDS** on them

Then He *again* **REBUKES the Leaders**

& THEN – **The U.F.C.** of the OT really **begins** (ultimate fighting challenge)

He **CONFRONTS** some other guys

**Calls down CURSES** on them

& **BEATS some** of them up

& **Pulls out** some of their **HAIR**

Then he **BANISHES one guy** from his presence

& finally **PURGES everything FOREIGN** from the House of God

& he does all this – to **REFOCUS** Israel  
on the **Commitments** they had previously made – to God

**CH 13** of Neh – is about **HARDCORE**, **RADICAL**, **REFOCUS**  
to get the people of God – Back to their Original Commitments

**WHICH IS** (*in a Softer & Gentler way*) **EXACTLY**  
what **we've** been **doing here** for the Past Year

## **Let's Pray**

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We've **been** making **Necessary Changes** – to **REFOCUS** us  
on **Exactly** what we were **called** here to do

**Which is** to make;  
***“Fully Devoted, Reproducing Followers of Jesus Christ”***

And **WHY** (again) is that **REFOCUS** necessary ??

Because – **By Default** - We all tend to slip  
**AWAY** from our Purpose & Calling - - Not **TOWARD** it

**By NATURE** – We Drift **AWAY** from God – Not **TOWARD** Him

**Listen carefully** to this Quote  
from the **Founder** of the **Salvation Army**

**General William Booth**, “ . . . *bear in mind that it is the nature of a fire to go out; you must keep it stirred and fed and the ashes removed.*”

It is the **Nature** of a Fire – **TO GO OUT**

So to **KEEP** a fire **GOING** you must

**STOKE IT**

**STIR IT UP**

**FAN THE FLAME**

If you **DON'T** – It **WILL** Go **OUT** – Every Single Time

& so - in these **next 2 Msg's** – We're going to **see** Nehemiah

**STOKING** - & **STIRING** - & **FANNING**

The **Flame of the Revival** – that God had started back in **Ch 8**

& hopefully we'll see – The **DANGER** of the **Possibility**

that **Our** DEVOTION, **Our** COMMITMENT – could actually **GO OUT**

& hopefully - we'll see the **NEED** for **US**

to be **Stirred Up**, & **Re-Challenged**, & **Re-Focused**

**Back** to what God – Originally called US – **TO DO !!**

**The Msg** today is about the **LONG RUN** – the **MARATHON**

It's about **Continuing** to **Run Well** - & Finish **Strong**

**AND** It's about the **harsh reality** that **IF** we are left alone

**without** the **fire** of God being continually **STOKED**

**WE** - will **ALWAYS** Drift **AWAY** from God – Not **TOWARD** Him

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Now – it **would've been GREAT**

if **the book** of Nehemiah **ENDED** after our **LAST** Msg (Ch 12)

**Because** in our last msg - We **left the people** of God

on a **"Spiritual High"** – Literally

They were **High** up on the **Wall** - **Dancing & Singing**

& **Praising God** for ALL He'd done

& it would've been **GREAT** – if we could've just said;

***And they all lived HAPPILY EVER AFTER***

Then it would've been just like a **Fairy Tale Disney Movie**

But the Bible is **REAL LIFE** - & it's **TRUE STORIES**

& in **REAL LIFE** – the **Fire** of our Devotion

will always begin to **Fade Out** if we don't continually **Re-Light** it

& so – **Ch 13**

Is about **RELIGHTING** the Fire - the People had in **CH 12**

**And** (You Might Say) – **WOW** – they lost the FIRE

in that **little space** between **Ch 12** & **Ch 13** ??

**Noooo** – It just **LOOKS LIKE** it

**Here's** how it actually went down . . .

in **Ch 10** - the people made **Wonderful Commitments** to God

in **Ch 11** - a bunch of them **Moved Back** into Jerusalem

in **Ch 12** - they had that **Huge Dedication** service to KICK things off

& **THEN** - at some point after that

Nehemiah had to **RETURN** to his job with **King Artaxerxes**

**Remember** – When **Nehemiah** asked the King to go to Jerusalem

He **only asked** for a “Leave of Absence”

So he had to go back to his job with the King of Babylon

The amount of time Nehemiah was away is **NOT clearly stated**

opinions range from **1 year** to **20 years** (prob 10+ years)

So – **Between** the events of **Ch 12 & Ch 13**  
**Nehemiah** had been gone **prob 10-12 years**, maybe more

**& during that 10-12 years or so**

the **FIRE** of the people’s convictions had **dimmed**,  
their **faithfulness** had “**waned**”, the **world** had invaded the **church**,  
and **spiritual ruin** was again in **process**

& so Nehemiah **PACKS UP** - & **Returns** to Jerusalem (a 2<sup>nd</sup> time)

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Now - **Ch 13** starts with a “**Time Reference**”  
that can’t really be pinpointed

We’re **not sure** exactly **WHEN** these 1<sup>st</sup> 3 Vs’s **occur**  
but **their point** - is to **Introduce** the events of **V.4**

**Nehemiah 13:1–3 (NLT)**

***1 On that same day*** (“in that time”, etc), ***as the Book of Moses was being read to the people, the passage was found that said no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be permitted to enter the assembly of God.***

***2 For they had not provided the Israelites with food and water in the wilderness. Instead, they hired Balaam to curse them, though our God turned the curse into a blessing.***

***3 When this passage of the Law was read, all those of foreign descent were immediately excluded from the assembly.***

At some point **Deut CH 23** was read to the people

Which **excluding Ammonites & Moabites** from the Assembly

**WHY** ?? - **Because** they were the **Sworn Enemies** of God

& **WHY** is that an **Introduction** to **V.4** ??  
Because **TOBIAH** was an **AMMONITE** - (**CH:2**)

**Remember TOBIAH** – That **Sworn Enemy** of God  
& of **Nehemiah** ??

he was an **AMMONITE** – Who **SHOULD HAVE** been  
**Barred** from the Temple

So now we're **Ready** for the **SHOCK** of **Vs's 4-5**

**Neh 13:4-5(a) – NLT**

**4 Before this had happened, Eliashib the priest, who had been appointed as supervisor of the storerooms of the Temple of our God and who was also a relative** (by marriage) **of Tobiah**, (inter-marriage, more later)

**5 had converted a large storage room** (in the Temple) **and placed it at Tobiah's disposal. . .**

Let's **get this straight**

**TOBIAH** – The **Arch-Enemy**  
of **Nehemiah** - & of the **Work** of God

Was actually **GIVEN** – BY the **Eliashib** the Priest (Poss High Priest)  
a **PLACE** to call his own – **INSIDE** the Temple Courts

We **could call this** “**The 1<sup>st</sup> Community Church of TOLERANCE**”

**Eliashib** the Priest **REACHED OUT** - to **the Enemy** of God's People  
& **NOT ONLY** did he “**Reach Out**” to him

he **CONVERTED** a place **in the Temple**  
**so** that the **Enemy** could **MOVE right IN** with God's People

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& here's the WORST PART . . .

WHY – was there ROOM in the Temple Store Rooms  
for the enemy to MOVE IN - & Set Up SHOP there ??

Because the People of God – WEREN'T GIVING !!  
& so they didn't need the Store room

Neh 13:5(b) - NLT

*5 . . . The room had previously been used for storing the grain offerings, the frankincense, various articles for the Temple, and the tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil (which were prescribed for the Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers), as well as the offerings for the priests.*

The room was Supposed to be used for storing  
the Tithes & Offerings of the People  
to Provide for the Servants of the Temple

But GUESS WHAT – (as we'll see in a minute)  
The people HAD STOPPED GIVING

& the LEVITES & the SINGERS (who were supposed to be  
Provided for by the offerings stored in these rooms)

They all HAD to Go BACK to WORK in their own feilds

& so there was plenty of room in the house of God  
to Invite the Enemy of God in - to set up shop – on the INSIDE

Maybe – since the people of God weren't giving  
maybe the enemy was invited in cause he was willing to PAY RENT

But whatever the reason – the FIRE of the people's commitment  
to "Not neglect the Temple of God"- Had Gone Out

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Now – this all **OCCURRED** while **Nehemiah**  
was **AWAY** from Jerusalem

**Neh 13:6 - NLT**

***6 I was not in Jerusalem at that time, for I had returned to King Artaxerxes of Babylon in the thirty-second year of his reign, though I later asked his permission to return.***

**Nehemiah** had been **gone** for some time (poss **10+ years**)  
& we **assume** he'd **HEARD** about these things in Jerusalem

***& when he returned . . .***

**Let's just say** - there was some **REFOCUS** needed !!  
So let's see - how Nehemiah "**refocused**" the people of God

**Neh 13:7-8 - NLT**

***7 When I arrived back in Jerusalem, I learned about Eliashib's evil deed in providing Tobiah with a room in the courtyards of the Temple of God.*** (no PC wording here, this was an Evil Deed)

***8 I became very upset and threw all of Tobiah's belongings out of the room.*** (ESV – all his household furniture)

**WHY** was Nehemiah so **UPSET** ??

**because the people had made a Commitment to God**

to **NOT** allow the **Enemy** inside the Church

& to **NOT** Neglect **Caring** for the Temple & it's servants

& now – they had **moved** the enemy – **right into** the Temple Courts  
& there **was room** for him – because the people **WEREN'T** Giving

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& so Nehemiah did the **ONLY REASONABLE** thing  
to **REFOCUS** the people

He got **Very UPSET** - & he **THREW ALL** of Tobiah's **STUFF**  
**OUT** of the Temple Store Room

*. . . Hey, I heard Nehemiah was back . . . have you seen him ??*

*Yeah, see all that stuff flying out of Tobiah's place ?  
That's where Nehemiah is ""Ministering"" today*

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Can you **IMAGINE** a **LEADER** of God's House  
**Setting Aside** a **PLACE** to make the **Enemy** Feel Comfortable ??

**Tobiah** has **criticized & attacked** Nehemiah  
& the **work of God** **ALL THRU** this book

& **now**, a place has **been made** for him  
to set up shop **INSIDE** the **House of God**

*But guys* – This happens **ALL THE TIME** in our churches

**We know** When a person is **an enemy** of God's **Work**, & God's **Leader**  
& **yet**, we want to "make a place" for them

We **wouldn't want** them to feel "**unwelcome**" of "**unloved**"

& **we think** we're doing the **Christian Thing** – but *honestly*  
we are **simply making a place** for the **enemies** of God

to **do their damage** from **INSIDE** the Church - instead of **OUTSIDE** it

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**When Jesus** cleansed the Temple

DID He SAY; *“Now, let’s be careful not to offend these folks, they’re really not bad people, they just have a different view on things. Why don’t we make friends with them and get to know them, so we can better understand them. They might even have a few good ideas . . .”*

OR – Did He – Angrily RUN them OUT with WHIPS ??

I think maybe we’ve gotten UNBELIEVERS & ENEMIES Mixed up

Unbelievers we should draw in - & take care of  
Enemies we should run off - to Protect the People of God

Prov 22:10 – ESV

*10 Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.*

Can I say (*gently & lovingly*) We need to BE WILLING  
to DRIVE OUT the enemies of God from our churches

& NOT ONLY from our Churches  
but from our Individual Lives ALSO

If you make a place in your life  
for the enemy of God to feel welcome

he will MOVE IN – & you WILL be SORRY  
he WILL draw you away from God - & from God’s Purpose for you

If a <u>Rattlesnake</u> convinces you - to let him <u>curl up</u> in your <u>Bed</u> You <u>WILL</u> – <u>GET BIT !!!</u> - Guaranteed
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& so Nehemiah - THREW Tobiah out of the House of God

& then he cleansed & purified the rooms Tobiah was using  
& he BROUGHT BACK what was supposed to be there

### Neh 13:9 – NLT

*9 Then I demanded that the rooms be purified, and I brought back the articles for God's Temple, the grain offerings, and the frankincense.*

he THREW OUT what WASN'T supposed to be there  
& PUT BACK IN – what WAS supposed to be there

This is what we call – REFOCUS !!

he restored the Rightful Things of God – to their Rightful Place

& in doing so – Nehemiah LIT THE FIRE AGAIN

He REFOCUSED the people  
to WHAT they had been Originally Committed to do for God

& Part of what LIT the FIRE again  
was his PASSION & INTENSITY – to DO what was RIGHT

He didn't say: I better PRAY about this, & FORM a Committee,  
& Take a Survey, & see if anyone's going to get MAD

He said – This is WRONG! - & it Needs to be FIXED - NOW

**AMEN ??**

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Alright – the first thing Nehemiah did was CLEANSE the TEMPLE  
Like so many Godly Leaders BEFORE him had done

**& Now** - the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the **Msg** today  
We're going to talk about **GIVING**

So – Let me preface it by saying this:

In the Last 3 WEEKS – Giving around here (both Church & W-B-M)  
has been UP - & We really thank God for that

After making some Really serious Cuts last year  
& after a couple HUGE single donations

The Church ended the year \$4,000 in the RED  
& W-B-M ended the year \$1,000 in the RED

Which is way better than it was looking at Mid-Year

The biggest CUTS we made Last year were

- 1) sending Pastor Jeff back to Work Full-Time in Construction
- 2) Not having ANY paid administrative help for the church

Both those Decisions have caused serious Struggles for us

but GOD is GOOD All the Time

& He has continued to Provide – THRU YOUR GIVING !!

& I Promise You – I'm teaching this Next Section

Because it COMES NEXT in our Vs-by-Vs Study of NEH

But I CANNOT IGNORE the Tangible Illustration of these Vs's  
that we've seen right here in our own ministry

Neh 13:10 - NLT

*10 I also discovered that the Levites had not been given their prescribed portions of food, so they and the singers who were to conduct the worship services had all returned to work their fields.*

**Here's the deal** – Back in **CH 10** the people had made  
a **Solemn Promise** to **GIVE** – to provide for the Temple

**Neh 10:35 – NLT**

***35 “We promise to bring the first part of every harvest to the Lord’s Temple year after year . . .***

***V.37 . . . We will store the produce in the storerooms of the Temple of our God (now being rented to Tobiah) . . . And we promise to bring to the Levites a tenth of everything our land produces . . . (now the Levites are fending for themselves)***

***V.39 . . . We promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God.***

**Unfortunately** - that **FIRE** of **GIVING** – Had **GONE OUT** !

& so **the Levites** had gone **back to work in** their own fields  
so they could **eat**

But – in order To **LIGHT THE FIRE** again – Nehemiah didn’t say:  
***“well, it must just be the down economic times”, maybe we should do a fund raiser – Who wants to do a Chariot Wash & Sell some Brownies to raise money for the House of God”***

No – this was a **SPIRITUAL PROBLEM**  
& so Nehemiah addresses it **Spiritually**

**Neh 13:11 - NLT**

***11 I immediately confronted the leaders and demanded, “Why has the Temple of God been neglected?” Then I called all the Levites back again and restored them to their proper duties.***

Nehemiah **CONFRONTS** (a word of Intensity) the leaders  
& demands - ***“WHY has the Temple of God been neglected?”***

& then **he gets** all the **Levites** on a **Conference Call**  
... **Then I called all the Levites back**

& he **RESTORED** them to what they were **SUPPOSED** to be doing  
which was **Ministering to the people** - on God's Behalf

& then (**v.12**) – he **got** the people to **start giving** again

**Neh 13:12 - NLT**

***12 And once more all the people of Judah began bringing their tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil to the Temple storerooms.***

Now – it seems like the people  
just **automatically started** giving again

**But** there's something **VERY INTERESTING** to **Note** right here

This **Falling Away** in **GIVING** (among other things) - in **Nehemiah**

was **actually** occurring WHILE **MALACHI**  
was **Prophesying** in Jerusalem

**Nehemiah** is the LAST **Historical** Book  
**Malachi** is the LAST **Prophetic** Book

& **even tho** they're far **apart** in the Bible  
they are **OCURRUING** in the **Exact same time period**

**Malachi** was most probably - **Prophesying** in Jerusalem  
while **Nehemiah** was **away**

& so when **Nehemiah CONFRONTED** the Leaders about Giving  
They **ALREADY** had the **WORD of the LORD** convicting them

So **the Ministry** of Malachi the Prophet - actually **LAI**D the **STAGE**  
for **Nehemiah** to **LIGHT THE FIRE AGAIN** in God's People

Now **THAT** is *Pretty Cool*

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**Again** – Malachi **addresses** pretty much  
**ALL** the **Problems** Nehemiah is facing

But the **BIG PHOPHECY** that Malachi gives us – **The SHOCKER**

is **the one** – that is the **only place** in the entire Bible  
**where** we are called to **TEST** God

**Here's** what **Malachi** writes -  
about the **Exact Same situation** Nehemiah is **addressing**

### **Mal 3:6-10 – ESV**

**6 “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.** (NLT = I am the Lord, I do not change.

That is why you are not already destroyed)

**7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me** (Light the Fire again), **and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’**

**8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.**

**9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.**

**10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of**

*hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

**This is** (w/o a doubt) one of The **Most POWERFUL** texts on **GIVING** in the entire **Bible**

**& - I KNOW - - - It's in the OT !!**

(that's **what** Christians who **DON'T GIVE** always say)

I **hate** to **break it** to you – but **THE N.T - FULFILLS - THE O.T.**  
it **doesn't do away** with it

God's **Principles of Giving** in the **O.T.**  
are **FULFILLED** in the **N.T.** – **NOT** done away with

**NOW** - Instead of just a **LAW** – God wants **YOUR HEART**  
& believe me – *it was **EASIER** to just follow a **LAW***

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Let's **LOOK** at this a little bit

**This Text** in Malachi was written about **PROVIDING** for  
the **House of God** & the **Ministers** of God

**Let's see** how much that's **CHANGED** into the **N.T.**

**1Cor 9:13-14 – ESV**

*13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?*

*14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.*

SAME **Principal** of Giving – From the **O.T.** to the **N.T.**

SAME **Application** of Giving - From the **O.T.** to the **N.T.**

& **Even More** - God has actually **MADE** the **PRINCIPLE** of Giving into a very **Powerful Spiritual Truth**

So let me **show it** to you – out of **BOTH** the **O.T.** & the **N.T.**

**Prov 11:24-25 – ESV**

***24 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.***

***25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.***

What **Prov** is saying is – The one who **GIVES** is **Blessed** by God – so that they can **GIVE MORE**

**Prov 22:9 - NKJV**

***9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.***

Again – **God is looking** to Bless the person with a **Giving Heart**  
So **THEY** can Bless those in **NEED**

& **NOT ONLY that** – But it was **God** Who **instituted** the “**GIVING KARMA**” – for **lack of a better phrase**

**Gal 6:6-7 – ESV**

***6 One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.***

***7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.***

& Jesus – **speaking** **not only** of **Money**, but of **Mercy** & **Forgiveness**

**Luk 6:38 – ESV**

***38 Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”***

Now – I know **KARMA**'s **not** a Christian **Word**

But **JOHN LENNON** **Stole** the Concept **from GOD** !!

& the Spiritual Principle So Clearly **LAI D DOWN** by God is

***You will RECEIVE in direct proportion to how you GIVE***

& **remember** I said – It's **NOT** just a **O.T.** Law to be followed

**NOW** – in the **N.T.** God wants your **HEART** !!

I **REALLY** encourage you to **STUDY** - **2COR 9:6-15**

Really dig in, until you understand it

**For today** – let me just read

**2Cor 9:6-8 – ESV**

***6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.***

***7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

(God wants your heart)

***8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.***

**God** is more than able - to give to **YOU**

**so that** you can give to **OTHERS**

These are **Powerful Principles** of Giving

That will absolutely **CHANGE** the way you **view** the **Christian Life** if you will **RECEIVE** them, & **Live** by them

**Is it** about a certain **percentage** ?? – **Not Really**

Is it about **God's PROMISE** – to **GIVE** to us in the Same Proportion as we **GIVE to OTHERS** ?? - **YES it is !**

& **God** says in **Mal 3:10** – **“Put Me to the test”**  
God says - just **TRY** to **out-give** Me

**So there you go** – Ready or Not  
there's the **TRUTH** about God's Principles of **GIVING**

& again – We are **extremely Grateful** to God  
**for those** who **understand** these Principles

& I promise you – **God will HOLD UP His** end of the Bargain

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Alright - so Nehemiah **LIT THE FIRE** of **GIVING** again

& then **He got** the **Ministers BACK** to **WORK** at the House of God  
**ALL** with a little **“Prophetic Help”** from **Malachi**

& **then** – as he had **Done Before**  
**Nehemiah** set up leaders (supervisors)

to oversee the **Storing** & the **Distribution** of the Tithes

**Neh 13:13 - NLT**

***13 I assigned supervisors (ESV – treasurers) for the storerooms: Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah, one of the Levites. And I appointed Hanan son of Zaccur and grandson of Mattaniah as their assistant. These men had an excellent***

**reputation** (were considered reliable), **and it was their job to make honest distributions to their fellow Levites.**

This is the **exact same principal** we use  
for the **storing & distributing** of your **Tithes & Offerings**

We have **Supervising Elders** (& a **Treasurer**)  
Men of **Excellent Reputation** (Reliable)

Who oversee the **Storing** & the **Distributing**,  
of **Every Dollar** each of you give – Just like in Nehemiah

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& **so today** – We've seen Nehemiah **LIGHT THE FIRE AGAIN**  
in **just TWO AREAS**

- 1) **Cleansing the Temple** of the Enemies of God
- 2) **Returning** the people to a **Heart of Giving**

In our **Next Msg** – We'll see  
**TWO MORE Fires** that Nehemiah had to "**RE-LIGHT**"

**As he REFOCUSES** the people of GOD

But **to close** today – let me **just say**

**Nehemiah** was **NOT** running for Political Office here

He was **definitely NOT** trying to Make **Friends**  
or Make everyone **Happy**

**What** he did – He did for **GOD ALONE**

& **I pray** each of us can Pray  
this **same Prayer** that Nehemiah prayed

Regarding **OUR** involvement in the **HOUSE** of God - & **FAMILY** of God

**Neh 13:14 – NLT**

***14 Remember this good deed, O my God, and do not forget all that I have faithfully done for the Temple of my God and its services.***

**Let's Pray**