

# Lesson 9, NEHEMIAH 13

It would be lovely to say that after the glory of the rededication of Jerusalem, they all lived happily ever after. Sadly, that was not the case. It seems that Nehemiah left for a period to return to Susa and his duties there. Chapter 13 is what he found when he finally returned to Jerusalem.

1. Read Nehemiah 13:1-3. What was the issue? Before you get upset about God rejecting an entire people, remember this story in on the other side of the cross where the people had only the Law to help them. Read Deuteronomy 23:3-6 for background about the curse on these people. (If you want a laugh, read Numbers 22). What was the result?

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2. In chapter 13: 4-11, what has happened in the Temple courts? (Remember, Tobiah was a marginalized Jew and opposed Nehemiah again and again). How did Nehemiah resolve this issue? See verses 12-13.

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3. What is the third thing that Nehemiah discovered in verses 15-17? How did he resolve this? See verses 18-22. What is the final issue of wrongdoing in verses 23-27? What is Nehemiah's response in verse 28 and 30-31?

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4. Malachi was the prophet at the time of Nehemiah. As you read Malachi, it supports what Nehemiah found on his return to Jerusalem. After the prophesies of Malachi, God was silent for 400 years. What does this tell you about the importance of what he said?

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5. Read John 2:13-16. Why was Jesus angry? There is such a thing as righteous anger. If our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, what does Romans 12:1-2 say? How do we fight the urges of the flesh and the world? See Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Corinthians 3:17,18.

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The ancient Jews living in Jerusalem did not keep up their guard against the pulls of the world.

6. What does Matthew 7:15, Luke 12:1, 15, Luke 17:3, Luke 21:34, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 6:20, 2 Peter 3:17 and 1 John 5:21 say about guarding our lives?

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*Application:* Even though we give our lives to Jesus Christ, it is still a battle out there. See Ephesians 6:1-12. Write out the armor of God in Ephesians 6:13-18. How do you see this battle in your life, in the life of the church and in our nation?

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*Prayer:* Ever faithful Father, we are overwhelmed by your goodness and provision for us who claim your Son Jesus as our savior. We see how Nehemiah tapped a few faithful men to oversee God's people. Mold and shape each of us to be those "faithful ones" who say "yes" to you. As you set us free from those things that bind us, transform each of us into the likeness of your son with ever-increasing glory. (2 Corinthians 3:17,18). We pray this in the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ. Amen.