

Nehemiah 10

Obedience

I. Doing Business with God: Sealing the Deal

1 Now **those who placed their seal** on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,

- **Proved their repentance with action**
 1. Fasting
 2. Sackcloth
 3. Ashes on Head

If we are serious in reaching God's heart...God will be serious in reaching ours

- Apart from Denying flesh, separating from worldliness, and confessing sin

People now make a covenant/agreement with Creator and put in in writing

- **Covenant:** Lit. to cut [animals] and walk through. Don't keep end up like this
- **First to put their seal...**
 1. Nehemiah the Governor
 2. Zedekiah the Priest
 3. 84 in all put their seal

2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. **These were the priests.**

- **Priests place their seal**
- **Next Levites;** i.e. Keepers of the Temple of God...

9 **The Levites:** Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, and Kadmiel. 10 Their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodijah, Bani, and Beninu.

- After Levites... **the leaders of the people...**

14 **The leaders of the people:** Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, 24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

II. Covenant Details: Trusting in God's Provision

When I have really transacted business with God on the basis of His covenant, and letting everything else go, there is no sense of personal achievement-no human ingredient in it at all. Instead, there is a complete and overwhelming sense of being brought into union with God, and my life is transformed and radiates peace and joy. [Oswald Chambers]

- **Serious about doing business with God:** Trusting God with everything
 1. Trusting God with regard to **obedience to His Word**
 2. Trusting God with regard to **marriage partners**
 3. Trusting God with regard to **finances**

28 Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim [dedicated to the Temple] , and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding— 29 these **joined with their brethren**, their **nobles**, and entered into a **curse and an oath** to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:

We display love for God with obedience to God
"If you love me you will keep My commands"

Curse/Oath: "I will accept a curse if I break this oath"

- **Moses:** Blessing and Curses Speeches before Promised Land

God's heart is that we would obey that it "would go well" with us/our families...

Deuteronomy 5:29 Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

- **Moses offered a Choice...**

1. **Blessing and Life**
2. **Curses and Death**

- Fear and Obey God.**
- Disregard/Disobey God.**

Deuteronomy 11:26 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, **if you obey the commandments** of the Lord your God which I command you today; 28 **and the curse**, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God...

- God encourages us to choose the abundant life

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life...**

Trusting God with regard to obedience
"We will obey God and if not accept the consequences"

- People are serious about doing business with God
- **Next Trusting God with regard to marriage**

30 We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons...

2 Corinthians 6:14 [Read] **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will **be a Father to you,** And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."

Covenant with non-believer?

- **Un-believing Partner in Business/Marriage?**
- **Like trying to mix Oil and Water:** Works for a little while
- **No fellowship:**
 1. Saved vs. Unsaved
 2. Regenerated vs. Un-regenerated
 3. God-fearing vs. Lawless
 4. Of the Light vs. Of the Darkness
 5. God our Father vs. Devil being their father
- **God is the Father of Christians;** i.e. brothers/sisters of Jesus
- **E.g. Jesus the Son of God is not ashamed to call his people brothers**

God is Creator of us all but God is not Father of all Universal Fatherhood of God is Heresy

- **To self-righteous religious Pharisees:** Your father is the devil!

We will not allow our children to marry pagans. Without doubt fail anyway

- Trusting God with regard to our marriage partners

**Parents for you sons and daughter for God to raise up a marriage partner that
Loves Jesus more than them...but them next**

- Next, trusting God **with regard to finances**

31 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, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.

- **Sabbath:** Day of Resting from conduction business

1. Seventh day of Creation God rested and called the day Holy

Genesis 2:2 ...on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He **rested on the seventh day** from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

2. One of 10 Commandments; i.e. God's Covenant with Israel

- **Made for man:** God's kindness to give day off...

Mark 2:27 And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

3. Purpose: Differentiate God's people from Pagans; not buy/sell on Sabbath

**We trust God will provide as much in 6 days of work as in 7 days
It is God who provides**

- **Jehovah Jireh:** God my provider

32 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: 33 for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and **all the work of the house of our God.**

- **Self-imposed tax given to the work of the Temple**

1. Yearly tax
2. Paid for physical things needed in Temple

- **After repentance, forgiveness, joy:** People manifest gratefulness by giving

34 We **cast lots among** the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God as it is written in the Law.

- **Cast Lots? To bring wood?**

Who would **get to** bring the wood for the offering?

Who gets to make coffee, clean toilets, vacuum, usher, teach, & make CD'S?

These people are serious about doing business with God

- Continuing: Trusting God with **regard to our finances...**

35 And we **made ordinances** to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the Lord; 36 to

bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God; 37 to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities. 38 And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.

- **Firstfruits:** Tithing
 1. First of what we earn
 2. First of what God provided
- **Tithing Before the Law**

Genesis 14:20 Then Abram gave [Melchizedek] **a tenth of everything.**

- **Old Testament Tithing:** 1/10 of everything throughout OT Law
- **New Testament Tithing?** Jesus talked about tithing...

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, **without leaving the others undone.**

- **Giving demonstrates:**
 1. **We understand** everything we have comes from God
 2. **We trust** God will continue to provide even with less
 3. **We appreciate** the lights being on, missionaries being supported, those in need being taken care of, classrooms being expanded for our kids.

Do not give to this Church if you are not a believer. Do not give to this church if you are visiting. Do not give to this Church if you can't give cheerfully...

2 Corinthians 9:6 ... He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.** 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

[Grudgingly] He gives as if he was parting with his blood. His fingers tremble and linger long over the shilling, which has to be extracted as forcibly as if it were a tooth. One wonders that the Queen's image is left upon it when it has been held with such pressure. [Spurgeon]

- Without faith it is impossible to please God
- We honor God when we trust Him with our finances...

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all

your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Let us learn then, from the analogy of nature, the great lesson, that to get, we must give; that to accumulate, we must scatter; that to make ourselves happy, we must make others happy; and that to get good and become spiritually vigorous, we must do good, and seek the spiritual good of others. [Spurgeon]

It's not about our money...it's about our heart

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

- **Israel made an ordinance to give first fruits**

39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and **we will not neglect the house of our God.**

- **Give to the Storehouse from where you are fed**
- Both God and you will be blessed: **Only place God says to "try Him"**

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the **tithes into the storehouse**, That there may be food in My house, **And try Me now in this,**" Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

- **Serious about doing business with God? Trust God with all things...**
 1. Obedience to His Word
 2. Obedience in Relationships
 3. Obedience in Finances