

Who's Living in Your House?

Nehemiah 13:6-9 | Pastor Bruce | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

Who is living in your house?

I. A House Built for God's Presence

- David wanted to build God a house, but God told him his son would do it instead.
- Solomon built the temple over seven years. It was filled with gold, silver, and cedar wood.
- When the temple was finished, the presence of God filled the house.

II. A House Abandoned

- Israel drifted from God, even after all he had given them.
- Nebuchadnezzar's army camped around Jerusalem for two years, then broke through the walls and destroyed the temple.
- The people were carried into captivity in Babylon for seventy years.

III. A House Rebuilt

- After seventy years, King Cyrus decreed that the temple should be rebuilt.
- Opposition stopped construction for years, until Zechariah preached and the people finished the temple.
- Later, Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer, heard that Jerusalem's walls were still torn down and asked the king for permission to go rebuild them.
- Despite mockery and threats from a man named Tobiah, the walls were completed in fifty two days.
- Nehemiah set up the tithe so priests, Levites, and musicians could give their full attention to serving in the temple.

IV. A House Compromised

- Nehemiah went back to the king for a time. When he returned to Jerusalem, he found a problem.
- Eliashib the priest had given Tobiah, a man who wasn't even part of Israel, a room in the temple storeroom.
- That room was supposed to hold the tithes and offerings that supported the priests and musicians.
- Because the tithe wasn't coming in, the Levites and singers had left the temple and gone back to their fields just to survive.

V. Cleaning the House

- Nehemiah threw Tobiah's furniture out of the room.
 - He ordered the room purified and had the tithes and offerings put back where they belonged.
 - He restored the priests, Levites, and musicians to their work in the house of God.
-

Closing: Who's Living in Your House?

- Bruce's challenge: before revival comes, there has to be a housecleaning.
 - Things that don't belong can move into your life the same way Tobiah moved into the temple: unforgiveness, jealousy, worry over your past.
 - Whatever is living in your house and keeping you from what God has for you needs to be thrown out.
-

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. What has taken up residence in your life that doesn't belong there?
 2. Is unforgiveness, jealousy, or worry over your past taking up space that belongs to God?
 3. Nehemiah didn't wait to deal with the problem once he saw it. Is there something you've been putting off?
 4. What would it look like for you to put back what belongs in your life, and clear out what doesn't?
 5. Before you ask God for revival, are you willing to let him do the housecleaning first?
-

Scripture References: Nehemiah 13:6-9 (main text) | Nehemiah 1-2, 4 (rebuilding the walls) | Nehemiah 8 (reading the Book of the Law) | Nehemiah 10 (the tithe restored)