

NEHEMIAH THE GREAT REFORMER

(Nehemiah 13:23-31)

I. NEHEMIAH'S REINSTITUTION OF THE MOSAIC LAW (13:1-31)

A. The Expulsion of the Foreigners, Including Tobiah (13:1-9)

B. The Rundown Temple and A Need for Tithing and the Sabbath to be Reinstated (13:10-22)

C. The Rebuke of the Jews Who Were in Mixed Marriages (13:23-31)

1. When Nehemiah returned to the land, he found that many of the men had _____
God's Law (Ex. 34:12-16) and their prior covenant-commitment (Neh. 10:1-3) by taking
_____ wives. (v. 23)

2. Intermarrying with the heathen was a problem Ezra addressed several years earlier; he actually
agreed to allow the people to _____ their pagan _____. (Ezra 9-10)

3. Nehemiah certainly had good reason to be concerned...
 - a. The Jewish children could no longer speak _____, which meant that they would
not be able to understand the _____ for themselves. (v. 24)

 - b. Israel's history had already proven that a single generation's _____ would
be a serious _____ to undo centuries of godly work.

- * What can a Christian learn from these unequally yoked marriages?

4. Nehemiah's righteous indignation to this intermarrying was expressed in a threefold manner...
 - a. He "*contended with them*", i.e., he _____ his case and _____ them
harshly for their sin. (v. 25a)

- b. He also physically struck some and _____ out the _____ of others.
(v. 25b, cf. 2 Sam. 10:4; Isa. 50:6; Ezra 9:3)
- c. He did _____ force them to divorce their Gentile spouses (which happened in Ezra's day), but he made them _____ that they would not give further sons and daughters to the pagans. (v. 25c)
5. The governor used an example of the great King Solomon who intermarried with pagan women which caused him to _____ and _____ their false gods. (v. 26)
6. By removing Joiada who had contaminated the priesthood, Nehemiah effectively _____ - _____ Sanballat's _____ in having any say in anything "Jewish".
(vv. 27-28)
7. The people's sins weighed _____ on Nehemiah, and it is clear that this man was certainly in the "habit" of _____ with God as he _____ Him. (v. 29)
8. Nehemiah was a _____ facilitator of political stability, and a no compromise _____, defender and _____ of the Word of God. (vv. 30-31)
9. Nehemiah's singlemindedness of _____, attention to detail, willingness to delegate authority, dedication to _____, and his never-ending _____ on the Lord makes him a wonderful example of how it is to be done.

* What lessons have you learned from this great book of Nehemiah?