

NEHEMIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Nehemiah chapter 11 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we will finish up this book this evening. As we have seen in our study of Nehemiah, God touched the heart of Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls of the city, which they accomplished in record time, only fifty-two days. We have seen the reading of the Law of God before the people and we have seen the hearts and lives of the people touched by God!

And here is what we will see tonight. When God touches the hearts and lives of the people they will follow Him where He is leading them. They will do whatever He asks them to do. Now will all follow what the Lord is saying? Will all do what the Lord is telling them to do? Obviously not, God directs us but then we must take those steps of faith, we must put into practice that which the Lord is telling us to do.

Let me show you what I mean by doing what you are called to do, by serving our master, Jesus Christ to the fullest no matter the cost, no matter who gets in our way. We are told,

John Kenneth Galbraith, in his autobiography, *A Life in Our Times*, illustrates the devotion of Emily Gloria Wilson, his family's housekeeper:

It had been a wearying day, and I asked Emily to hold all telephone calls while I had a nap. Shortly thereafter the phone rang. Lyndon Johnson was calling from the White House.

“Get me Ken Galbraith. This is Lyndon Johnson.”

“He is sleeping, Mr. President. He said not to disturb him.”

“Well, wake him up. I want to talk to him.”

“No, Mr. President. I work for him, not you.”

When I called the President back, he could scarcely control his pleasure. “Tell that woman I want her here in the White House.”

- John Kenneth Galbraith, A Life in Our Times, Houghton Mifflin, Reader’s Digest, December, 1981

The bottom line is this. Who are you going to serve, who are you going to listen to? The world wants you to look and act just like them and God wants you to be like Jesus, to manifest His character. And thus, we see the battle as the world is fighting for us to be molded into its image and the Lord wants us transformed into the image of Christ! That is Paul’s point in Romans 12:1-2, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

Paul just finished giving 11 chapters on doctrine and now here in Romans chapter 12 he tells us that we now need to apply what we have learned to our lives. We are to place our entire lives on the altar of sacrifice and give it to God so that He may use us as He pleases and not as we please. And as we do this, as we surrender to God He will transform our lives into the image of Christ, we will be more like Him, and we will be walking in the will of God, doing as He desires and His desires will be our desires. You see, doctrine is important, but then you must take that a step further and apply it to your life, you must walk by faith!

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Nehemiah chapter 11, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word and we finish up this fascinating study in the book of Nehemiah.

NEHEMIAH 11

VERSE 1

1. Yes, the walls of the city are up, and the gates and doors have been hung, but the city itself is still a mess. The homes were still destroyed and most of the people that came back to Jerusalem were living outside the city, where the land was fertile for farming and for their animals. So Nehemiah is drawing lots so that 1 out of every 10 people will move back into the city.

2. Why was it so important to have the city of Jerusalem repopulated? If Jerusalem was going to prosper, if it was to be great again, it needed people to live there. And what I like is that the leaders were there already, they were an example to others to come back to Jerusalem and live. I think that is important for people that are leaders and folk's, like it or not, we are all leaders. There are leaders in the church, in the home, at work and-so-on and what we do, where we go will influence others to do the same, whether it is good or bad. So be careful in what you do because you are an example to others!

VERSE 2

1. What we see here is not only were the leaders in Jerusalem and those who were picked in this lottery, but there were others who willingly offered themselves to live in Jerusalem, to make it their home and they were blessed for their actions! What that tells me is that it was not an easy move, it was going to cost them something and God honored their devotion and blessed them!

2. How does that apply to us? What has God called you to do? Where does He want you to go? Will it be hard? You bet it will! Will it cost you something? You bet it will! Will it stretch you farther than you have gone before? You bet it will! But, as you obey the Lord, as you take those steps of faith and do what God has called you to do, you will be blessed. That is just the way God works!

VERSES 3-24

1. In these verses we see those notable men and their families who chose to settle in Jerusalem. We can break these verses down like this. In verses 4 through 9 we see the leaders from Judah and Benjamin spoken of. Then, in verses 10-18 we see the priests listed. Verse 19 deals with the gatekeepers. In verse 20 we see the rest of the priests and Levites mentioned. Then, in verse 21 we see the Nethinim spoken of and these were the descendants of the Gibeonites who served in the Temple, (Joshua 9:23). And in verses 22 and 23 we see the singers mentioned. And finally, in verse 24 we see the representatives of the king mentioned. All these men and their families chose to live in Jerusalem and they were an example to others to come and join them.

VERSES 25-36

1. In these verses we see listed those that were living outside the city of Jerusalem. You see, the majority of the people lived outside the city in what we might call the suburbs. And these are the people of Judah and Benjamin who lived in these areas. Now, why do we see their names not mentioned here when the names of those living in Jerusalem were mentioned? Could the Holy Spirit be showing us a picture of those who have truly come to Christ, they responded to the invitation that was given and then there were those who heard the invitation but refused to go all the way and receive it. They did not abide in Christ, they may call on Jesus when they are in trouble, but that is as far as it goes. There is no relationship with Him, no true one as seen with those that came to the heart of the city, to Jerusalem to live!

Obviously the Holy Spirit is not going to list the thousands that were outside the city of Jerusalem. But again, I also see the picture of those who come to Jesus and the ones that don't! The ones who make that commitment and the others that live on the fringes you might say and never really enter into that saving faith!

NEHEMIAH 12

VERSES 1-11

1. Here in these first 11 verses we see the priests and Levites that returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel in 538 B. C. Zerubbabel was more of a political leader and Jeshua or Joshua was the religious leader at this time, he was the High Priest.

VERSES 12-21

1. In these verses we see the priests who were ministering during the days of Joiakim. And back in verse 10 we see that Joiakim is the son of Jeshua or Joshua the High Priest.

VERSES 22-26

1. This Darius probably refers to Darius II or Nothus and he ruled Persia from 423 B. C. to 404 B. C. And we have a list of Levities who were ministering during his reign.

2. In verse 23, where it speaks of "**the book of the chronicles**" it is not speaking of the book of I and II Chronicles but it was an official record of the heads of the father's houses from the tribe of Levi.

VERSES 27-29

1. The walls are completed, the doors and gates have been hung, and now it was time to celebrate and rejoice in what God has done through them. And so we see Nehemiah gather the worship people, the Levites to lead in the worship of God. And keep in mind that these Levities were living all around the city of Jerusalem. They settled in various towns around this city.

We are told that some of these singers from the tribe of Levi came from the areas of the Netophathites (ne-tof'-a-thits), Gilgal or the area east of Jerusalem. They came from the areas or villages Geba and Azmaveth or the area to the north of Jerusalem, which were Benjamite towns.

2. Now let me say this about worship. Yes, you have to be musically inclined to lead in worship but many times what we have done is made the worship of God into entertainment and it is not entertainment. In fact, it is not about you and how you feel. The goal is not to give you a warm fuzzy feeling inside, even though that may happen. Worship is to give glory to God, to honor Him and as we do our focus comes off of self and back to where it needs to be, **GOD!** And just as it is an honor to teach you the Word of God, just as it is an honor to teach the children the Word of God, just as it is an honor to be an usher or whatever ministry you are in, it is an honor to lead the people of God in the worship of God!

VERSE 30

1. Now hear me out on this one, it is important. Notice what they do before they enter into the worship of God. They purify themselves. I do not believe you can honestly worship the Lord if you are living in sin. That may shock you but what did David say in Psalm 24:3-4, **“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.”** In other words, you can’t come before God with praise if you are walking in sin. Now if you are saved I am not saying you can lose your salvation here but that fellowship with God is broken because sin does that.

Then what can we do or what should we do before we come to worship the Lord? John tells us in I John 1:9, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].”** I do not know where you are at this evening, the things that are hindering your walk with the Lord, but give them to Him, confess them to Him and enjoy worshiping the King of kings and Lord of lords with a pure heart!

2. And notice how this is all played out. First the Levites, the worship people cleansed themselves before they could lead the people in the worship of God. Then they brought the cleansing of God to the people so that they could truly worship and praise the Lord. And lastly, we are told that the gates were purified or their surroundings and for us, it is our homes, our offices that need to be clean so that we may walk in purity before the Lord and have a pure heart of worship for Him!

VERSES 31-43

1. Remember when Nehemiah first got a vision for the work that was to be done, as he came to Jerusalem he went to the Refuse Gate or the Dung Gate and from there he circled around, surveying the work. Now that the work is done, he has two sets of choirs, one moving clockwise the other counter-clockwise, and both meeting together at the Temple. And having this large group of people on the wall, singing praises unto God, I feel was to show Tobiah the Ammonite that whatever God builds will stand. Remember what Tobiah told them. He told them that “... ‘Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall.’” Nehemiah 4:3. Now they have the worship people marching on the wall and singing praises unto God for all to hear.

2. Isaiah 60:18 says, “... But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.” You see, just as the walls separated the children of Israel from the world, so do the walls of our salvation. And with it they shouted with praise unto God and our salvation brings us great joy that then manifests itself with shouts of joy as we sing to our Lord and Savior new songs that He has placed in our hearts.

3. Now let me say this and please understand this. Worship should be joyful, we should sing loud and strong to the Lord. Our voices should ring throughout this building as we use various instruments to lead us in the worship of God. As Psalm 98:4-6 says, **“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.”**

Also, in Psalm 100 we read, **“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”** Psalm 100:1-5.

And then, as we move to the New Testament, Paul says in Ephesians 5:19-20, **“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Worship should be joyful and not somber or depressing. Too many churches have a worship style that makes you think someone has died. Our worship should be filled with joy as we shout unto God thanksgiving and praise! The tomb is empty!

4. Let me add this one point that goes along with what I just said. Think about this for a minute. If you have ever been outside a baseball stadium when someone hits a homerun for the home team, what do you hear? You hear all kinds of cheering, all kinds of noise, great joy that is coming from inside the park. When you hear that what do you want to do? You want to be a part of it. You want to run inside and join them.

Now, when many people walk by churches they hear nothing because the church is dead. There is no joy in the worship but there is emptiness. I love to stand outside the church when the worship team is practicing and listen to their shouts of joy to the Lord that can be heard. And I am sure when we as a congregation come together, the joy we have for the Lord, the noise we make, people going by can hear us and my prayer is that they would desire to have what we have, ***JESUS!***

VERSES 44-47

1. David had worship people singing praises unto God 24 hours a day and here we see Nehemiah re-institute worship people for the Temple. And because of the importance of worship we see that the people were supporting the priests and the Levites who were suppose to be doing the work of God. And not only the worship people but the gatekeepers or those who were watching who was entering the Temple and who was to be kept out!

2. Now if the Book of Nehemiah ended here, it would be a very upbeat book. Things are going well. The people have rededicated themselves to the Lord and are following the Laws of God. But it doesn't end here, there is a chapter 13 that we must read, and hopefully learn from. And this is also true for our own lives. All of us would love to have life just remain in celebration but it doesn't. There are challenges that we must face every day and it is from those challenges that we grow in the Lord, we learn. We are going to see Nehemiah face some challenges and let's see what he does about that as we move into chapter 13 of Nehemiah this evening.

NEHEMIAH 13

VERSES 1-3

1. Now this is interesting. How did they find out they were in sin? As they gathered together to hear the Word of God, their sin was exposed. Remember what David said in Psalm 119:9-11, **“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”**

And how true that is and how important is it for us to be in the Word of God. You see, as you read the Word of God you discover the truths of God and then you can take those truths and you can apply them to your life, things you need to do, just as they did.

2. Here we see a rebuke that comes from the Word of God against the children of Israel that were in fellowship and even marrying the people of Ammon and Moab. And yes, the Ammonites and Moabites were family, the descendants of Lot from his incestuous relationship with his daughters. But as the children of Israel were heading from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Ammonites and Moabites refused to let them cross through their land. In fact, Balak, king of the Moabites hires Balaam to curse Israel, but instead he blesses them. And it is interesting to watch when the enemy tries to curse us; God sends His blessings to us and puts to silence the work of the enemy.

3. Now they knew the truth from God's Word as we are told in Deuteronomy 23:3-4, **“An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever, because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.”** Now please understand that this does not mean that they can't be saved, but as they lived unto their god's, the children of Israel were not to join with them just as God tells us today that we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers!

So as they read God's Word they saw their sin, they saw that they needed to apply God's Word into their life or live what they said that they believed! And that was not an easy task, for they had to separate themselves from this relationship with the world. Dealing with our sin is not always easy but it is necessary in our relationship with God. And think about this, James 4:4 tells us, "**Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**" Did you see what James is saying? We can't say we love the Lord and yet say we are friends with the world, with its philosophies, with its ways! If we do, then we are really at war with God!

VERSES 4-9

1. We are told that Nehemiah was in Jerusalem for some 12 years serving as governor. But the work to rebuild the walls only took 52 days. Why did he spend all that extra time? The walls, in a sense, were easy to rebuild, the real work was not the walls, but the building of the people. The real work was restoring the people back to God. And the sad thing here is that once Nehemiah leaves, to go back to Persia to serve the king, for he was only given a temporary leave, the people fall right back into their old ways. And Nehemiah was probably only gone a few years and yet those 12 years of building the people were destroyed by the enemy in a very short time because there was no one to lead them in the way they should go.

What was the problem? What went so wrong? This priest, Eliashib, aligns himself with Tobiah. Now Tobiah was not just the enemy who tried to stop the work of God from being completed, but he was also an Ammonite who was not allowed to be in the house of God, let alone in fellowship with the people of God. But Eliashib clears out one of the store rooms that were located around the Temple, and makes a room for Tobiah. The things that were used in the worship of God were removed so the enemy could sleep in that room and not be offended by the things of God!

2. It is always sad when I see liberal leaders in the church allow the enemy to come into the church to live. For they bring with them all their destructive views. And what ends up happening is the true worship of God comes to an end. Why does that happen? Because now there is no room for the true worship of God for the true worship of God makes people uncomfortable!

3. A sad example of this is the document that was signed several years ago now called, “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium.” The signing of this document with the Catholic Church has united us with this church, which believes a salvation by works theology, which is contrary to Scripture. Also, if you are not part of the Catholic Church you are not even saved, or so they say. And yet, the document is telling us that all Catholics are saved. Just because you are Catholic or Protestant does not mean that you are saved. I don’t care if you are a card carrying member or not. It has nothing to do with your salvation. Your salvation is based upon the finished work of Christ on Calvary, what He has done for you and not what you have done.

Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9, “**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**” And yet we are now saying with this document that we agree with the various Catholic views that are contrary to Scripture, such as Mary Worship, Purgatory, Penance, the Catholic Church being the only true church and-so-on. They even had to change the wording of this document so that Catholics were not offended by it and yet, what about Protestants? You see we caved in to what they wanted and we are preaching another Gospel and not the Gospel that Jesus has given to us. No, you don’t embrace the doctrines that are contrary to the Bible and you don’t sign a document saying the same.

4. Now when you look at what Nehemiah does, you have to love this guy and I wish more church leaders and Christians would take a stand like Nehemiah did here! As he returns to Jerusalem and finds out what is going on, that the enemy, Tobiah, is sleeping and living next to the house of God, he evicts this guy, tosses him out and all his belongings with him. I could just see how mad he was and as people are looking at what is going on, out comes this piece of furniture, then some clothing, some dishes or whatever. He wanted all to know and see that he was not condoning this relationship and the reality is, he was fumigating this room you might say by getting rid of this bug! You see, because the enemy had filled the room, there was no room for the true worship of God. So as the junk was removed, the worship of God was restored.

5. I do realize that some of you may be taken back by his actions. That was not done in love and he didn't even pray about it. Well folks, there are some things that you don't need to pray about. They had transgressed the Law of God and so he needed to be tossed out. It was not a time to vote on if he should be tossed out, it was time to toss him out because Tobiah the Ammonite did not belong there.

People today are no different. When you confront someone living in sin, transgressing the Law of God, and you tell them to stop, they say, “Let us pray about it!” Hey, there is nothing to pray about, cut it off and stop transgressing the Law of God! We see the people of this world wanting us to condone their sin and yet, they won’t accept what we believe. Isn’t that interesting and when we don’t condone their sin, they say we are unloving. Well, I guess we can say that of them because they hate us for what we believe and we love them, we just hate what they believe and we desire them to come to Jesus and be saved. But you do not invite them to live in the church and teach their false doctrines and water down the message to make them feel comfortable. You do not feed the goats, you feed the sheep knowing that God’s Word is living and powerful and He can transform that goat into a sheep!

VERSES 10-14

1. Earlier they said they were going to support the work of God, but now they are not doing that. And I think it is real easy to give lip service to God but it is another thing to do those things that you said you were going to do, to follow through with your obedience to God’s Word, which will only be accomplished by God’s Spirit working in us. And so Nehemiah confronts them on this issue and as the people start giving, Nehemiah sets overseers to make sure that things were being distributed properly to the priests and Levites.

2. Now this is interesting. As you come to verse 14 we now see Nehemiah pray about this situation of not giving to the work of God, why didn't he pray first? Think about it like this. If you see a toddler or your young child walk into the middle of the street, are you going to sit down and pray, "Lord, protect that child so no cars will hit him"? No, of course you are not going to pray first. You are going to go and rescue that child or your child and then you can pray and thank God for protecting this child and to give them the wisdom not to do it again. There is a time to pray and a time for action!

VERSES 15-22

1. Once again we see them breaking the Law of God. This time it was the Law of the Sabbath day which told the children of Israel that the Sabbath day was to be given to God. They were to do no work on the Sabbath. Remember what God said in Exodus 31:16-17, **“Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”**

Why did they break the Sabbath day Law? Well, there could be many reasons why they did. Maybe they felt they could make more money by being open on the Sabbath or doing their work on the Sabbath. Or maybe they didn't have time during the week and thus, they had to go shopping on the Sabbath! Or maybe they felt that the Law was given a long time ago and things are different now, we are living in more enlightened days. Or maybe they felt that that this went just a little too far, let's not go crazy over this Sabbath day thing. Or maybe they needed some time to get a group together to vote on the matter so they can come to a conclusion on what they should do. Folk's, it is easy. God told them what they were to do and that is what was needed to be done!

2. As Nehemiah sees what is going on he ends up closing down the city. He locks the gates from just prior to sundown on Friday till sundown on Saturday. Even today in Israel this is kept by the Orthodox Jews. The shops start closing down by 2 pm on Friday so that by sunset everyone is in their homes ready to partake of the Sabbath worship. In some parts of the city road blocks are set up so you can't drive and if you try, they will throw stones at your car to stop you. One of the Calvary pastors found this out first hand as he went for his morning jog on the Sabbath and was pelted with stones, and he wasn't sure at first why. But he soon realized that he was breaking the Sabbath Law, which many still take very seriously in Israel. Then, once the Sabbath is over at sunset on Saturday, there is a celebration. Many gather on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem to eat and celebrate the ending of the Sabbath and it is a fun place to sit and eat and just watch people!

3. Now because the gates were locked, no merchants could come into the city to sell their wares. But some just hung around the walls of the city in case someone left, or the doors were opened up. But Nehemiah puts forth a little incentive program for them to get away from the wall, and not to hang around it on the Sabbath, for if they remained there, he would come down and lay hands on them, and not for a blessing!

4. Now what does this say to us today as Christians, are we to keep the Sabbath day Law? As you study the New Testament you can clearly see that we are not under the Law and the Sabbath day Law was for the Jews as we saw in Exodus 31:16-17 already. Also, Paul tells us in Colossians 2:16-17, **“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”**

You see, all these days were a picture of what was to come, Jesus and once the substance is here you don't want to go back to the shadow, do you? Of course you don't! Now I do believe that some Christians have gone too far with this and they negate honoring God by making their job, their money, sports or whatever it may be more important than coming together to worship the Lord. I believe that is wrong. And as Nehemiah said, as we negate our time with the Lord, as we just kind of wink at what we are doing wrong, God will correct us because He loves us that much. Now I do understand that some have to work on Sunday's. Being a nurse for 30 years I had to work every other weekend and the Lord allowed my schedule to work out in such a way that I worked the second shift on those weekends so I could be in church. God will honor your hearts desire and it may not be easy, but I truly believe He will do it!

VERSES 23-25

1. Remember that the people had stated that they were going to separate themselves from the foreigners of the land, and be separated unto God, but now they were transgressing the Law of God. And Nehemiah handled it differently than Ezra did. Ezra mourned over the situation, pulled out the hair of his head and prayed for the people, taught them the Word of God which convicted their heart.

I am thinking that Nehemiah may have been Italian by his actions here. You see, Nehemiah takes a more hands on approach and strikes those that transgressed the Law of God and pulled out their hair. I guess he tried to make them a deal that they could not refuse! Now who was right and who was wrong in the way they approached this situation? I don't believe either one was wrong; I think that they both were right. How can I be so sure? Because the good hand of God was upon both men. Remember, Ezra was a priest, and Nehemiah was a political figure, and I think that is a reason why we see the vast difference in leadership or ministry styles. Yes, there are times that I want to pull some people's hair out; I can't afford to pull out any of my hair. But there is that grace of God and the grace He has shown me I believe He wants me to extend to others. It does not mean I condone their sin, but I correct them in love and God will take care of the rest!

VERSE 26

1. Notice what Nehemiah does here. He has them look back at the life of Solomon to learn some lessons from his mistakes. You see, Solomon was the wisest man that lived, and maybe he thought that God's Laws did not pertain to him. He found out how wrong he was. His transgression of God's Law caused him to stumble as he married pagan women. You see, I don't care who you are, you can't violate God's Laws and get away with it. They are there to protect us, not to hurt us. And the lesson for us is this. Don't think you know better than God, you don't! Thus, listen to Him!

VERSES 27-28

1. How bad was this situation? We are told that son of the High Priest gave his son to the daughter of Sanballat, who was another enemy who was trying to stop the work of God. Even the priests were falling into this sin and transgressing the Law of God. And what does Nehemiah do here? He throws this priest out who married the daughter of Sanballat. What an example for us. If a leader has united himself with pagan practices, married himself to them, you don't entertain him or let him continue, but you drive him out! Now some would see that as unloving but it is not. What you are doing is showing that you love the sheep too much to let this false doctrine continue on in the church and you love this person so much that you will drive him out so that he might return to the Lord!

VERSES 29-31

1. Nehemiah was a great leader who led the people by example. He never made the people do anything that he was not willing to do. Caesar's boast was, "I came, I saw, I conquered!" But Nehemiah's boast was humble and yet more powerful than that of Caesar. Nehemiah cleansed the people of their sins as the Word of God convicted their hearts. He established them in the land by building the walls of the city. And he provided them an example of what kind of man God wanted them to be.

Nehemiah cleansed, established and provided for his people. As Christians, we should do no less for the brethren. Lead by example in the things of God. Nehemiah has lots of spunk but he also was totally committed to God. He put them back on track and was committed to keep them on track. And Nehemiah concludes by saying, "**Remember me, O my God, for good!**"