

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

LESSON TWELVE Introduction: From time to time we all fail to keep our commitments, don't we? Our good intentions and plans often fail by the wayside. Sometimes we blatantly break our promises, but other times we just drift away gradually. Within a relatively short period of time, the children of Israel went back spiritually and returned to their old ways of doing things. In other words, good beginnings are no guarantee of happy endings.

1. Israel's Broken Promises.

a. The Submission Promise (13:1-3).

- i. They read the Word
- ii. They remembered the past
 - Ammonites sinned against them by omission.
 - Moabites sinned against them by commission.

b. The Separation Promise (13:4-9, 23-28).

- i. An Enemy Intruder (v.4-9).
 - Eliashib's Irresponsibility
 - Tobiah's Contempt
 - Nehemiah's Reaction
- ii. Mixed Marriages (v.23-28)
 - Their problem.
 - Their pounding!

c. The Support Promise (13:10-14)

- i. The problem
 - The rulers forsook the Temple (v.11)
 - The Levites returned to work (v.10)
- ii. The plan
 - It involved doing assigned tasks.
 - It involved giving proportionate tithes.
 - It involved appointing faithful treasurers.

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- d. The **Sabbath** Promise (13:15-22)
 - i. Nehemiah rebuked the **employees** (v.15-16).
 - ii. Nehemiah rebuked the **employers** (v.17-18).
 - iii. Nehemiah ordered the **gates closed** (v.19-22)

2. Nehemiah's Leadership **Lessons**.

- a. It's never too late to do what's **right**.
- b. Don't play around with **sin**.
- c. Remember **who God is**.
- d. Cultivate a lifestyle of **praise and prayer**.
- e. Move out of your **comfort zone**.
- f. Don't let **difficulties** derail you.
- g. Seeks to resolve **people problems**.
- h. Say "yes" to **God's priorities** and "no" to the **devil's distractions**.
- i. Believe the **promises** of God and act upon them.
- j. Allow God to **use you**.

3. Nehemiah's Personal **Prayer**.

- a. Remember **my work** (v.14).
- b. Remember **me in mercy** (v.22).
- c. Remember **me for good** (v.31).

Conclusion: There is coming a day when all of this life will be over. Therefore, it is important that we anchor our present life and ministry in the future. Our prayer, like Nehemiah's, must plead for the mercy and favor of God to be on our work today, so that one day we may hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."