

Practical Lessons from Nehemiah¹

Nehemiah 1-13

1. When our brethren are hurting, we should also hurt (1:4; cf. Rom. 12:15).
2. God grants success when His people “arise and build” (2:20; cf. 1 Cor. 3:11ff).
3. The work gets done when the people have a mind to work (4:6; cf. Eccle. 9:10).
4. Working for God demands that we be sober and vigilant in view of the enemy (4:21-23; 1 Pet. 5:8).
5. Though some exempted themselves from working (3:5), God exempts no one (5:16; Matt. 21:28ff).
6. There will be those who discourage the work saying, “It will not be done” (6:9; cf. Num. 13:31), and there will be those who do the work saying, “It will be done” (6:16; cf. Num. 13:30).
7. One cannot be a part of God’s priesthood who has insufficient, spiritual “family records” (cf. 7:64; Psa. 127:1; Matt. 15:13).
8. Remarkable things happen when “all the people” gather “as one man” (8:1; cf. John 17:20, 21).
9. It is a blessing to have those who can rightly handle God’s word, correctly explaining its meaning to the hearers (8:8; cf. 2 Tim. 2:15; James 3:1).
10. Sin does not pay (9:27; cf. Gal. 6:7-9).
11. Sin enslaves one (9:36; John 8:34; Rom. 6:16).
12. God’s people have this resolve: “Thus we will not neglect the house of our God” (10:39; cf. 1 Tim. 3:15).
13. It is a terribly sad day when our children speak the “language of Ashdod” and “cannot” speak the spiritual language in which they should have been trained (13:24; cf. Prov. 22:5; Eph. 6:4).
14. When we sin on earth, we act unfaithfully against God (13:27; cf. Gen. 39:9; Acts 5:3, 4).

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