

## When Leaders Act<sup>1</sup>

Nehemiah 13:4-25

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. When something was wrong, Nehemiah would do something about it.
2. After his return to Jerusalem, he found that some things had gone wrong.
3. He faced four major problems, but acted decisively before they destroyed God's work.

### **DISCUSSION: Nehemiah acted to do something about...**

#### **I. Compromising Companionship.**

- A. "I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah" (v. 7).
- B. "I threw out all the household furniture of Tobiah....Then I gave orders..." (vv. 8, 9).
- C. We are reminded once again that you cannot mix good and evil (cf. Matt. 12:30).
- D. It is possible for the Christian to make the same mistake today. We can be so concerned about pleasing others that we forget about pleasing God.
- E. Nehemiah saw the situation as it was and got rid of the evil influence.

#### **II. Financial Fiasco.**

- A. "I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given..." (vv. 10-14).
- B. One of the marks of leadership is that the leader is sensitive to potential problems and he tries to ward them off before they become big problems.
- C. Nehemiah confronted the officials (v. 11; cf. 1 Tim. 5:17-20).
- D. There are times when we need to examine our giving, too (cf. Mal. 3:8-10).

#### **III. Secularized Sabbath.**

- A. "In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath..." (v. 15).
- B. The people had promised they would not do that (10:31).
- C. Breaking their promise, the people deserved another rebuke (v. 17).
- D. Nehemiah locked the merchants out of the city (v. 20).
- E. His immediate and forceful action corrected the problem.

#### **IV. Domestic Disobedience.**

- A. Intermarriage had been so wrong, the language of Judah was lost (v. 24).
- B. When a Christian marries a non-Christian, the children often pay the price.
- C. Another rebuke and confrontation was needed (v. 25).
- D. Nehemiah called for the judgment of God upon the people (v. 25).

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<sup>1</sup> From "Do Something About it, Now!" by Melvin Newland, [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com). Accessed, 12/05/2012.  
Adapted by Andy Kizer.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. How did Nehemiah solve problems?
  - a. He recognized them for what they really were and honestly said to the people, "These are problems."
  - b. He sought permanent solutions and did not accept excuses.
  - c. He dealt with them decisively.
  - d. He prayed and thanked God for helping him through it all.
2. There are problems in the world and in the church.
  - a. Leaders need to face them squarely.
  - b. They need to deal with them decisively.