



# HAND ME MY SWORD

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# NEHEMIAH SERIES

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## Welcome Nehemiah Lesson Overview

1. Compromising relationships.
2. Financial compromise.
3. Secularizing the Sabbath.
4. Domestic disobedience.



“

*But during all this time I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had gone to the king. After some time, however, I asked leave from the king, and I came to Jerusalem and learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, by preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. It was very displeasing to me, so I threw all of Tobiah's household goods out of the room. Then I gave an order and they cleansed the rooms; and I returned there the utensils of the house of God with the grain offerings and the frankincense. I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field. So I reprimanded the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts.*

*(Neh. 13:6-11)*

”



# WHAT IS WRONG WITH **THE PEOPLE**

**What is wrong with a people who God invested full restoration in His people, rebuilt the wall in 52 days, reestablished the Law of Moses, reconstructed the lives and homes of His people, consistently won battles against their enemies yet, after all, it is said and done, they return to their morbid beliefs by violating compromising relationships, financially jeopardizing their standing, returning to secular views of the Sabbath and cloaking their minds in domestic disobedience?**

# COMPROMISING RELATIONSHIPS

Nehemiah's Return

Compromising relationships. Before Nehemiah returned from his second period serving the king as a cupbearer, Eliashib, the priest, appointed over the chambers of the house of God, as compromise would have it, Eliashib was a direct relative to Tobiah – Nehemiah's greatest enemy. Furthermore, since day one, Tobiah had been an enemy of God and a thorn in Nehemiah's side. Here we have it. The first enemy of Nehemiah's work became the first compromise of relationships to revert God's people to devotion to family over loyalty to the Living God.





# **FINANCIAL COMPROMISE**

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**As proof in our text, the love of money is the root of all evil. Tobiah knew this immovable truth. Nehemiah was wise enough to know that when relationships are compromised, the love of money is hidden in the walls of relational deception. As they say, always follow the paper flow (money).**



# SECULARIZED SABBATH

## THE SABBATH DAY

Abusing The Sabbath

The shift of financial gain for the non-religious shifted the worship of the Sabbath to that of a secular framework. Remembering, the people committed to God, Nehemiah, and Ezra to observe the letter of the Law a spiritual day of rest – Saturday. As Nehemiah walked through the streets, he noticed the Jews were back to their nasty habit of working on the Sabbath, making money from God’s day of rest. God not only was supportive of Jews making money, however, but He also refused to support the Jews making money on God’s most Holy day – the Sabbath.

# DOMESTIC DISOBEDIENCE

As for God, who you marry is of utmost significance. Religions pass from women to children, and Nehemiah knowing this declares war against this wrong. Fact, the Jews were supposed to refrain from intermarriages to maintain the solidarity of their race – to keep it a pure race. Furthermore, interracial marriage had brought tragic results on the children's children. Who you marry declares the "god" you serve. Marriage involves the language of the people, intermingling of customs. Customs are the practical applications of what God rules the hearts of the people. As Solomon learned, who you marry determines the direction of the god that rules your household.

# AVOIDING PASSIVITY



- 1. Nehemiah faced the wrong he encountered head-on in all cases.**
- 2. Nehemiah dealt with the wrong directly, severely, and emphatically.**
- 3. Nehemiah did what was right despite the rejection of the people.**
- 4. Nehemiah not only worked toward a permanent solution of correction, but he also always followed up the wrong with prayer and dependence on God Himself.**

# Primary Principles of Our Lesson

Remembering The Top Points of Quality Leadership

1.

## RELATIONSHIPS

Nehemiah never compromised the truth over relationships.

2.

## MONEY

He was quick to avoid the compromise of money for progress.

3.

## SABBATH

He refused to compromise the ordinances of the Sabbath.

4.

## DOMESTIC

Nehemiah kept to the rules of God regarding intermarriages.

Remembering

IN CONCLUSION

## FINAL NOTE

**Biblical observation must come before human understanding, and it must come first. Honesty must be matched with Spiritual conviction, not common sense. Quality leaders cannot tolerate people doing their own thing. An unbending leader reveals the unbending God he serves. When leaders are courageous in their convictions, they must be tempered with a deep devotion to the Living God. This only can be displayed in serving God from the knees up.**



Nehemiah, the Christ Representative of Governorship.

# KEY TAKE-A-WAY

## THE FINAL REFORM

Closing the book of Nehemiah.

If there is one take-a-way from this series, when God answers your prayer by giving you a leader, honor this leader until death parts you.





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