



Lasting Change

Nehemiah 13

1. What has been the easiest and/or the toughest thing to change in your life (lose weight, stop smoking, your golf swing, etc.)?
2. In verses 4-10 we read that Tobiah had moved into the temple and the offerings were not being received.
 - Why was it so offensive for Tobiah to have living space in the temple? Are you surprised that Nehemiah reacted so strongly to Tobiah's presence in the temple? What lessons can we learn from this about how we should handle the sins in our own hearts and lives?
 - Agree or disagree: you can tell what people value by what they spend their money on. In Nehemiah's mind, what did not giving the offerings to God indicate about the Israelites? Is the same true for us? Why? If you do tithe to God, do you have any stories of God's faithfulness to provide for you?
3. Verses 10-22 tell us that the Israelites had abandoned the Sabbath. According to verses 17-18, why was this a big deal? Why do you think we physically *need* a Sabbath day? Why do we *need* one spiritually? Do you keep a Sabbath day on a regular basis? If so, what benefits have you experienced? If not, why do you think it is difficult to do so?
4. In verses 23-27, how do we see the Israelites diluting their faith and their culture? What is the result of these mixed marriages (verse 24)? Why was this such a critical problem from Nehemiah's perspective (verse 26)?

Ask yourself: Am I committed to creating a culture in my life and my home that honors God above all else? Where am I having success? Where am I struggling? What needs to change to more fully integrate God into my life and home?

5. As we conclude the study in Nehemiah, consider how God has worked in your life.
 - Has He given you a holy discontent? How has that developed so far?
 - What is your biggest learning from the book of Nehemiah?
 - How has your life changed by what we've learned in Nehemiah?