

Fulfilling Our Promises

Nehemiah 13:14 (HCSB) *Remember me for this, my God, and don't erase the deeds of faithful love I have done for the house of my God and for its services.*

Text: Nehemiah 13

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Obedience, Prayer

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Supplemental Texts: See below

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The Israelites made promises in Nehemiah chapter 10 that they broke here in chapter 13. They promised to:

1. Submit to the Word (Made in 10:29, broken in 13:1)
2. Separate from the World (Made in 10:30-31, broken in 13:4-9, 14-28)
3. Support God's Work (Made in 10:32-39, broken in 13:10-13)

Nehemiah was faithful in his dedication to God, and he helped others in their faithfulness. What was his secret?

If we are going to fulfill our promises to God, it will require that we...

- 1) Leave absolutely no room for _____ (vs. 13:6-9)
 - a. Nehemiah threw Tobiah out of his room, with all of his possessions. He also locked the gates on the Sabbath so that no one could buy or sell. Finally, he called the people to marital purity and to not be unequally yoked.
 - b. We have to be vigilant to attack areas of compromise in our obedience to the Word of God.
- 2) _____ to pray without ceasing (vs. 14, 22b, 29, 31b)
 - a. Nehemiah was always praying throughout his struggles.
 - b. We must learn to cultivate a life that is always in prayer.
- 3) Live in the _____ of God's omniscience (God knows everything) (vs. 14, 22b, 29, 31b)
 - a. Nehemiah opens his prayers with the word, "Remember."
 - b. Nehemiah was mindful that God keeps in view our work, from start to finish.
 - c. We must live our lives in the constant awareness of God's omniscience.

Questions for Application

1. What did the Israelites discover when they read the Book of Moses at the celebration? (13:1-2)
2. What did the people do in response to what they discovered in the Book of Moses? (13:3)
3. What evil deed had Eliashib the priest done? (13:4-5)
4. How did Nehemiah react to Eliashib's sin? (13:7-9)
5. What had forced the Levites to return to their own fields? (13:10)
6. Why did Nehemiah rebuke the officials? (13:11)
7. How did Nehemiah choose the men to put in charge of the storerooms? (13:13)
8. What request did Nehemiah ask of the Lord for his diligence in keeping Israel accountable? (13:14, 22)
9. Of what sins were the people of Israel guilty? (13:15-16, 23-24)
10. What action did Nehemiah take to insure Israel kept the Sabbath holy? (13:19-22)
11. How did Nehemiah react to Israel's sin of intermarriage with foreigners? (13:23-27)
12. What does this passage reveal about how believers should respond to the written Word of God?
13. What role did prayer play in Nehemiah's life?
14. Who has helped keep you accountable in your Christian walk?
15. What are the benefits to having a friend in whom to confide about spiritual things?
16. What responsibility do you think Christians have to keep each other accountable?
17. In what ways should our treatment of the Sabbath differ from Old Testament law?
18. Who is one person who could help keep you accountable in your spiritual life?