

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the protest of the people?
2. How was the protest rebuked?
3. How did the enemy try to trick Nehemiah?
4. How did Nehemiah know he was being tricked?
5. What are some examples of internal opposition?
6. How should we deal with internal opposition?

SUMMARY:

Nehemiah as governor succeeded in stopping the practice of usury, which resulted in extreme poverty and even bondage for many Jews. The lending of money at interest was forbidden between one Israelite and another since the money was borrowed for the relief of distress and not for business matters (Exodus 22:25). The usurers had sold their brethren to the heathen in defiance of the law. They were asked to restore the property held in pledge and to cease exacting the 12% interest from their Jewish debtors so that they could begin paying on the principal. During the first 12 years as governor, Nehemiah had been an example of an unselfish and generous leader.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

September 6, 2020

Third Quarter

OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN

LESSON TEXT: *Nehemiah 5:1-10; 6:1-16*

LESSON SETTING: Workmen rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 445 B.C.

I. A PROTESTING PEOPLE. Nehemiah 5:1-5

- A. Oppression. Exodus 22:25; Proverbs 14:31, 28:3
- B. Injustice. Exodus 3:16-17; Luke 16:10

II. A REBUKING PROPHET. Nehemiah 5:6-10

- A. Sympathy. Matthew 25:34-35; Colossians 3:12
- B. Justice. Psalm 103:6; John 5:30

III. A SUBTLE ENEMY. Nehemiah 6:1-16

- A. Craftiness. Luke 20:23; Ephesians 4:14
- B. Treachery. Esther 3:8; Matthew 26:49
- C. Deceit. Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:13
- D. Fear of Man. Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 51:12
- E. Spiritual Perception. Luke 5:22; 1 Corinthians 2:14

GOLDEN TEXT: *I AM DOING A GREAT WORK, SO THAT I CANNOT COME DOWN.* Nehemiah 6:3

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Nehemiah 8:1-18; 9:1-6; 10:28-39

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Kings 22:8-20; Proverbs 3:1-6;
Ephesians 6:10-17
Romans 10:11-17
1 Peter 1:23-25; James 1:5-25

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

Ezra, the priest, read the law in the presence of all the people. He and the Levites expounded the Word and taught the people the laws of God. The people were mournful and wept when they heard the laws and realized their terrible sin before God. However, Ezra and the Levites asked them not to weep, but to rejoice as this day was a holy day unto the Lord. They told them to eat and drink and rejoice; for the joy of the Lord was their strength.

The people praised and worshipped the Lord. They promised to obey and live faithfully according to His Word. We read how again they or their children failed and how four hundred years later they crucified the very Son of God. In 70 A.D. they were almost destroyed, and were scattered over the face of the earth to live without a homeland, until 1948.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Christians need to exercise great discernment and discipline in order to triumph over opposition from within.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE.*

Psalm 119:11

It was of great concern to Ezra the scribe—and all the priests and others who had custody of the book of the law—that the people could again be instructed in God's ways, which had been neglected for so long. As Ezra read, the priests and Levites explained so that all could understand what God required of them. The Psalmist realized that only if God's Word is kept in the heart, could man have power over sin. God knew that men through striving to keep the law could never be made perfect. Therefore, He provided a new and better way. "*This is the Covenant that I will make with them after those days,*" saith the Lord "*I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*" (Hebrews 10:16-17)

Today, if we hide God's Word in our hearts, if we make room for and obey the Holy Spirit, then His fruit can become manifest in our lives, "against such there is no law."

He doth find abiding pleasure in Jehovah's perfect law;
Day and night upon its treasure
He doth meditate with awe, for to him Jehovah's word
Strength and comfort doth afford. Z.H. 82:2

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 7 – 13

M. Receiving the Word of God. Exodus 20:22-29
T. Appropriating the Word of God. Joshua 14:6-15
W. Discovering the Word of God. 2 Kings 22:8-20
T. *Explaining the Word of God. Nehemiah 8:1-12
F. *Proclaiming the Word of God. Nehemiah 8:13-18
S. *Responding to God's Word. Nehemiah 9:1-8
S. *Practicing God's Word. Nehemiah 10:28-39

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