NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 13:15-22

15 In those days I saw in Judah people treading
winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of
grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine,
grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought
into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them
on the day when they sold food.

16 Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and
all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the
people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself!

Nehemiah 13:15-22

17 Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.”

Nehemiah 13:15-22

19 As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day.

20 Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.

Nehemiah 13:15-22

21 But I warned them and said to them, “Why do you
lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay
hands on you.” From that time on they did not come
on the Sabbath.

22 Then I commanded the Levites that they should
purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to
keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my
favor, O my God, and spare me according to the
greatness of your steadfast love.

Theme: While drifting from the truth happens so often for us, our response should be a radical obedience and reliance on God

I. The Peoples' Rebellion (vs. 15-16)

Nehemiah 13:15-16

15 In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food.

16 Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself!

Exodus 20:8-11

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

Exodus 20:8-11

11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Jeremiah 17:19-27

19 Thus said the LORD to me: “Go and stand in the
People's Gate, by which the kings of Judah enter and
by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem,
20 and say: ‘Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of
Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, who enter by these gates.
21 Thus says the LORD: Take care for the sake of your
lives, and do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day or
bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 17:19-27

22 And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath or do any work, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your fathers.

23 Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction.

24 “‘But if you listen to me, declares the LORD, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it,

Jeremiah 17:19-27

25 then there shall enter by the gates of this city kings
and princes who sit on the throne of David, riding in
chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the
men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And
this city shall be inhabited forever.

Jeremiah 17:19-27

26 And people shall come from the cities of Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:19-27

27 But if you do not listen to me, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.’”

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on
you in questions of food and drink, or with
regard to a festival or a new moon or a
Sabbath.
17 These are a shadow of the things to
come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

I. The Peoples' Rebellion (vs. 15-16)

II. Nehemiah's Response (vs. 17-22a)

Nehemiah 13:17-22a

17 Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to
them, “What is this evil thing that you are doing,
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18 Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our
God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now
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19 As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day.

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lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay
hands on you.” From that time on they did not come
on the Sabbath.

22 Then I commanded the Levites that they should
purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to
keep the Sabbath day holy.

Nehemiah 10:31

31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or
any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not
buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day.
And we will forgo the crops of the seventh year
and the exaction of every debt.

Matthew 5:29-30

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out
and throw it away. For it is better that you lose
one of your members than that your whole body
be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it
off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose
one of your members than that your whole body
go into hell.

I. The Peoples' Rebellion (vs. 15-16)

II. Nehemiah's Response (vs. 17-22a)

III. God's Remembrance (vs. 22b)

Nehemiah 13:22b

22 Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

Nehemiah 13:14

14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this,
and do not wipe out my good deeds that I
have done for the house of my God and for
his service.

Nehemiah 13:22b

22b Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

Nehemiah 13:31b

31b <u>Remember me</u>, O my God, for good.

Nehemiah 13:29

29 Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

Isaiah 49:14-16

14 But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me.”

15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child,
that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

“This makes a point vividly clear: the law – that is, rules, vows, promises, covenants, and the such, are all ultimately powerless to stop sin. Only the grace of God, alive and flowing in our lives, can give us the power to truly overcome sin. Paul expressed this in Romans 8:3, among other places:

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.” Too many Christians look for victory in the making of rules, of vows, of promises – and fail to find it, because all those things tend to make us look to ourselves, instead of looking to Jesus.”

- David Guzik, Enduring Word Bible Commentary

NEHEMIAH