

“Weeding Out The World!”
Nehemiah 13:1-3

Introduction:

1. In Nehemiah, We Come To The Final Chapter!
 - In Chapter 12, There Was A Time Of Great Dedication!
 - Of The People / Of The Wall Of Jerusalem!
 - This Dedication Was The Expression Of A Great Commitment To The Lord!
 - But, As We See In Chapter 13, Things Were About To Change!
2. Between Chapter 12 & Chapter 13, There Is Probably A Period Of Time Of About 12 Years!
 - 13:1 - “On That Day” - Would Seem That Another Day & Another Time Period Is In View! “Upon A Certain Day!” (Poole)
 - Because In 13:4, It Speaks Of Something Happening “Before This” – Before The Events Of 13:1-3!
 - What We Find In Chapter 3, Are Some Terrible Sins That Needed To Be Dealt With – So Was Some Time After The Day Of Dedication!
 - There Was A Lapse In The People’s Character & Conduct!
 - How Could This Happen? How Could This Take Place?
 - After Such A Great Expression Of Worship / Dedication / Commitment To The Lord?
3. Nehemiah – Their Leader Through It All – Had Left!
 - Remember, He Was On Assignment From The Palace In Susa!
 - This Wasn’t A Permanent Job In Jerusalem!
 - 2:6 - “And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time!”
 - Nehemiah Still Had A Responsibility To The King!
 - As His Faithful / Trusted Cup-Bearer!
 - Maintained Continuous Communication With The King!
 - But When He Left, The People Forgot Something!
 - The People Still Had A Responsibility To The Lord!
 - Still Some More “Rebuilding” Work To Be Done!
 - When Nehemiah Left, They Started Thinking: “Now What?”
 - “How Are We Going To Continue To Rebuild, Without Nehemiah Leading Us?”
 - They Became Too Dependent On The Leadership Of A Man & Not On The Lord! This Is Dangerous!
4. The People Wanted To Rebuild & Repopulate Jerusalem & Judah!
 - They Were Committed To It!
 - To Do So, They Needed Families! Wives!
 - But, It Would Seem Too Few Jewish Women To Marry!
 - So, They Fell!
 - Back Into Their Old Ways Of Thinking & Acting!
 - Very Pragmatic – Whatever Works! History!
 - Started Marrying Foreign Wives Again!
 - They Forgot!
 - What The Lord Had Said About These Methods!
 - But God Did Not Forget What He Had Said!
5. There Is Still Some Rebuilding To Be Done In Our Lives / Church!
 - But What Happens When We Don’t Have A Dynamic Leader Like Nehemiah? What Are We Going To Do?
 - Too Often We Fall & Forget As Well!
 - And Adopt The Pragmatic Methods Of The World In Order To Rebuild! Maybe Not Marrying An Unbelieving Wife / But Marrying Ourselves To An Unbelieving World! Adopting & Using Their Methods To Rebuild Instead Of God’s!
 - Examples Of Marrying The World!
 - Instead Of Marrying The World – We Need To Weed Out The World!
 - **IE:** What Happens When You Don’t Weed Your Garden! The Weeds Take Over! So

Does World!

6. The People Of Israel Were Reminded Of This!
 - And Show Us: How Do You Weed Out The World?
 - The Ever Encroaching / Always Tempting World?
 - 3 Ways! There Must Remain:

1. *A Sensitivity To The Word!*

- 13:1 - "On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever!"
 - They Didn't Reject Everything That God Had Taught Them All At Once! Gradual! One Thing They Continued To Do Was The Regular, Public Reading Of The Word Of God!
 - And Through This, God Was Able To "Prick Their Hearts" Back To Obedience!
 - When You Become Cold / Hard - The Only Solution Is The Word Of God!
- You Need To Be Around God's Word!
 - "They Read In The Book Of Moses In The Audience Of The People!"
 - Just The Reading Of It!
 - Called Here: "The Book Of Moses!" – But In 1:3 It Is Called "The Law!"
 - Sometimes We Forget What The Bible Is & Whose It Is!
 - Treat It Like Any Other Book Written By A Person – Even An Honorable Person! But Forget Its Pedigree / Purpose / Power! Hebrews 4:12!
- You Need To Be Alert To God's Word!
 - "And Therein Was Found Written!"
 - When You Are Alert – Really Listen – Amazing What You Will Hear & Find!
 - Fresh Discovery!
 - Something They Had Forgotten!
 - Fresh Demands!
 - "That The Ammonite & The Moabite Should Not Come Into The Congregation Of God Forever!"
 - This Pricked Their Hearts! This Is What They Had Done & Were Doing! They Were Sinning Against God! They Were Marrying The World!
 - From Long Ago – Deuteronomy 23:3!
 - When We Are Truly Alert, We Will Become More Holy!
- You Need To Be Aware Of God's Word!
 - The Reasons For It! Why This Command?
 - It Wasn't A Racial / Cultural Issue – But A Spiritual / Moral Issue!
 - Was For The Punishment Of His Foes!
 - Was For The Protection Of His Family! His People!
 - God Uses His Word To Protect You!
- Are You Sensitive To The Word Of God?
 - You Need To Be – If You Are To Weed Out The World!
 - And Be Used By God In Rebuilding Things His Way!
 - "Moab" & "Ammon" Are Symbols Of The World!
 - And Its Wickedness & Even Warfare Vs. God!
 - The World Will Ultimately Weaken You & Draw You Away From The Lord!

2. *A Surrender Of The Will!*

- Your Will! To God's Will! 13:2 - "Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing!"
 - This Is A Further Explanation Of Why God Gave This Command To His People – Don't Intermarry With The Moabites & Ammonites! Deuteronomy 23:3-6!
 - God's Will Is Always Best!
 - But The People Had A Lot At Stake! A Lot To Lose! Wives / Children / Close Friends / Family Members!
- God's Will – Your Provision! "Bread & Water!"

- But The World Wants To Destroy You!
 - And Withhold What You Need – Not Physically – But Spiritually! Jesus Alone Is The “Bread Of Life!” (John 6:48-58)
- This Is What The Moabites & Ammonites Did!
 - As Israel Was Going Through The Wilderness & Simply Asked To Pass Through On The Road!
 - What The World Continues To Do!
- Why Would You Want Anything To Do With The World?
 - Ephesians 5:11 - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them!” – Don’t Be Destroyed By The World!
- God’s Will – Your Protection! “Hired Balaam Against Them!”
 - But The World Wants To Distract You!
 - And Use Everything They Have To Keep You Out Of God’s Will & Being Used By Him!
 - This Is What The Moabites & Ammonites Did!
 - Using Money – Lots Of Money – To Harm Them Instead Of Helping Them! Balaam! Numbers 22-24
 - What The World Continues To Do!
 - Why Do We Bring The Methods Of The World Into The Church?
 - Matthew 6:25, 33 - “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” / “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!” – Don’t Be Distracted By The World!
- God’s Will – Your Prosperity! Not Physical / Material / Spiritual!
 - “Howbeit Our God Turned The Curse Into A Blessing!”
 - But The World Wants To Dishonor & Disgrace You!
 - This Is What The Moabites & Ammonites Did!
 - Balaam - “That He Should Curse Them!”
 - Believed That A Curse Had A Dynamic Power Of Its Own!
 - What The World Continues To Do!
 - Why Would We Let The World Infiltrate Our Lives / Families / Church? It Will Dishonor / Disgrace!
 - When God Desires To Bless!
 - Why? Deuteronomy 23:5 - “Because The Lord Thy God Loved Thee!”
- Are You Surrendered To The Will Of God?
 - You Need To Be – If You Are To Weed Out The World!
 - You Will Be – When You See That God’s Will Is Always Best!

3. ***A Separation From The World!***

- 13:3 - “Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude!”
 - It’s Not Enough To Realize These Things / Now Need To Respond!
- There Was A Change!
 - “When They Heard The Law!”
 - It Wasn’t Just The “Book Of Moses” Any Longer!
 - It Was The Word Of God!
 - Took Their Sin & God’s Commands Seriously!
 - Responsibility: To Read / Hear / Obey The Word!
- There Was A Commitment!
 - They Did Something About What They Heard!
 - Drastic! They Removed From The People Those Who Were Causing Them To Break God’s Law!
 - Difficult! Dealing With People / Relationships / Emotions & Feelings! Self-Denial!
 - Determined! Had To Be Done!

- How Much Is There Of This World That Does Not Belong In Your Life?
 - Separation! 2 Corinthians 6:17 - "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you!"
 - But The Result Was Something Precious!
- There Was A Cleansing!
 - "All The Mixed Multitude!"
 - The Foreigners Had Been "Mixed" Together With The People Of God! "Interwoven" & "Knitted" Together!
 - Wasn't This Harsh Of God?
 - The Consequences Of Sin Are Harsher Than The Conquest Of Sin!
 - What Happens When This Is Not Done? Not That Bad?
 - Solomon - 1 Kings 11:1, 4, 7 - "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites" / 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. / 7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon!"
- This Is What Will Happen When We Don't Take Our Relationship With The World Seriously!
 - There Must Be A Separation From The World!
 - In Order To Weed Out Worldliness & Do God's Work God's Way!
 - "We Must Live In The World But Not Let The World Live In Us!" (Raymond Brown)

Conclusion:

1. Are The Weeds Of Worldliness Suffocating Your Growth?
 - Robbing You Of Your Nutrition & Your Fruit / Effectiveness For The Lord?
 - We Must Not Let It!
2. So:
 - Are You Sensitive To The Word Of God?
 - Is There A Surrender Of Your Will To God's Will?
 - Is There A Separation From The World?
3. This Is How You Weed Out Worldliness!
 - So You Can Get Back To Doing God's Work God's Way & For God's Glory!

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