

“Speaking Another Language!”
Nehemiah 13:23-27

Introduction:

1. How Many Of Us Know Another Language Enough To Speak It?
 - How Many Would Like To Know?
 - Many People Do!
 - Many Different Languages!
 - Many Different Options To Learn Those Languages!
 - Classes / Online / Tapes / Travel!
 - Some Language, However, Should Not Be Learned!
 - In Every Language, There Are Words / Phrases That Are Immoral / Insensitive / Irreverent / Or Just Plain Course & Rude!
 - The Bible Has A Lot To Say About Our Speech!
 - Starting With 1 Of The 10 Commandments - Exodus 20:7 - “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain!”
 - The Speech Of A Christian Matters!
 - Words Matter!
 - James Addresses The Matter Of Christian Speech In James 3:1-18!
 - The Children’s Song Is So True:
 - “O Be Careful Little Mouths What You Say! For The Father Up Above Is Looking Down In Love!”
2. Back In Nehemiah 13:
 - The People Of God Had Another Problem!
 - This Time, Dealing With Their Speech!
 - Read 13:23-27!
 - The Children Of The God Were Speaking The Language Of The World!
 - The Language Of The World Is Not Just A Problem With Spoken Words!
 - Not Just A Problem With Written Words!
 - But Is A Spiritual Problem!
 - We See:

1. *The Symptom Of Worldly Language!*

- 13:23-24 - “In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: / 24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews’ language, but according to the language of each people!”
 - When People Who Say They Know The Lord Start To Sound Like The World, It Is A Symptom Of Some Even Greater Spiritual Issues!
- Reveals The Deep Resilience Of Sin! (13:23)
 - Sin Is Resilient, Isn’t It? If It Isn’t Killed, It Will Keep Coming Back!
 - Same With The Children Of Israel!
 - Didn’t Nehemiah Just Deal With A Similar Issue In Chapter 13? Yes! Look At 13:1-3!
 - Now, In Dealing With The 5th Problem In This Chapter:
 - One Very Similar To The One Already Dealt With!
 - It Grew Out Of The Previous Sin!
 - Not Just In Jerusalem, But In Other Areas Of Judah!
 - Ashdod / Ammon / Moab!
 - “Yesterday’s Enemies Have Become Today’s Marriage Partners. There Is More Than One Way To Destroy A City!” (Raymond Brown)
 - Need To Be Alert To Sin!
 - It Can & Will Come Back, If We Are Not Prepared For It! **IE:** Like Kudzu In The South!
 - And The Worldly Language Seen In These Verses:
 - Was Just A Symptom That Sin Was Hanging On!
- Reveals The Disappointing Reach Of Sin!

- The Sin Of The Parents Did Not Just Affect Them!
 - It Reached To Their Children!
- 13:24 - “And Their Children!”
 - Parents Must Remember This Lesson!
 - Not Just Their Children - But Their Family / Eventually Their Whole Society!
- Reveals The Dangerous Results Of Sin!
 - How Did The Sin Of The Parents Affect The Children?
 - It Showed Up In Their Language!
 - 13:24!
 - The Fathers Did Not Fulfill Their Responsibility!
 - The Mothers Did Not Fulfill Their Responsibility!
 - The Mothers, Instead, Clung To Their Own People / Customs / Gods / Language!
 - No Wonder This Didn’t Work! Couldn’t!
 - Talk About A Dysfunctional Family!
 - Amos 3:3 - “Can Two Walk Together, Except They Agreed!”
 - Losing The Language Was Not The Only Problem!
 - Without The Language, They Would Lose Their Legacy!
 - Without The Language, They Would Lose The Law!
 - Without The Language, They Would Lose The Lord!
 - Dangerous Results!
- It Is A Shame That Children From Christian Homes Know “The Language Of The World” More Than “The Language Of The Lord!”
 - Really, Though, It Is A Symptom Of Deeper Issues & Sins!
 - Even The Sins & Failures Of Their Parents!
 - How Should We Deal With This Symptom?

2. *The Sentiment Toward Worldly Language!*

- 13:25a - “And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God!”
 - Nehemiah Had A Very Strong Response!
 - Not Just To The Symptom, But To The Source!
 - This Is How We Need To Deal With It Too!
- A Strong Charge!
 - “Contended!”
 - Need To Be Careful In Reading This, Lest We Think That Nehemiah Was A Hot-Headed / Out Of Control Person!
 - His Anger Was Righteous!
 - And His Response Was According To The Law!
 - Yes, He Took Swift Action, As We Must Do, But He Did Not Act Sinfully!
 - Noone Was Innocent In Chapter 13!
 - Contended With The Rulers (13:11)
 - Contended With The Nobles (13:17)
 - Contended With The People (Here)
- A Strong Conviction!
 - “Cursed!”
 - Nehemiah Was The Jury & The Judge - They Were Guilty!
 - No Excuses For The Inexcusable!
 - No Defense For The Indefensible!
 - They Had Sinned!
- A Strong Consequence!
 - “Smote / Plucked”
 - Again, Done Lawfully & Righteously - Physically Sentenced & Shamed For Their Sin!
 - Which They Deserved!
- A Strong Command!
 - “Made Them Swear” - To Command Them To Stop Sinning & Get Things Right With God!

- Is This The Sentiment When We Hear Worldly Language?
 - “Not A Big Deal!” - No, It Is A Big Deal!
 - A Symptom Of Deeper Spiritual Issues!

3. ***The Source Of Worldly Language!***

- 13:25b - Nehemiah’s Command - “Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves!”
 - Very Clear Command!
 - And Shows What The Root Of The Problem Really Was!
 - The Worldly Language Of The Children Was Reflecting The Worldly Lifestyle & Heart Of The Parents!
 - The Real, Deeper Issue!
 - The People Were:
 - Giving In To The Attraction Of The World!
 - They Were “Giving”:
 - Their Daughters To The Sons Of Heathen Nations!
 - Not Sure What The Attraction Was:
 - But The Attraction Was Strong!
 - More Strong Than Their Attraction To The Lord!
 - And This Needed To Be Dealt With In The Heart!
 - Giving In To The Admission Of The World!
 - They Were “Getting”:
 - The Daughters Of The Heathen Nations For Their Own Sons!
 - Again, Not Obeying The Express Word Of God!
 - But Being Pragmatic!
 - Our Language / Words Can Be Used As A Thermometer Of Our Spiritual Condition!
 - And Our Relationship With The World!
 - Are We Giving In To:
 - The Attraction Of The World?
 - The Admission Of The World?
 - Into Our Lives & Families & Church?
 - Need To Identify The Source - Then See:

4. ***The Solution To Worldly Language!***

- 13:26-27 - “Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. / 27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?”
 - What Is It Going To Take?
 - To Deal With The Symptom & Source Of Worldly Language?
 - It Is Going To Take:
 - A Simple Honesty!
 - “Did Not Solomon King Of Israel Sin By These Things?”
 - Of Course, The Answer Is Yes!
 - This Problem That They Had:
 - Is The Same Problem That They Have Had Throughout Their History!
 - A Sincere Humility!
 - And If A Man / King Like Solomon Could Fall Into This Kind Of Sin – What Makes Us So Sure That We Won’t Fall Into This Sin?
 - Need To Be Humble!
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12 - “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!”
 - Solomon Was Special! (13:26)
 - A Special Recognition By God!
 - He Was A Success!

- “Among Many Nations Was There No King Like Him!”
- A Special Relationship With God!
 - He Was Loved & Privileged!
 - “Beloved Of His God!”
- A Special Responsibility From God!
 - “God Made Him King Over All Israel!”
- He Was Special – Yet He Failed & Sinned!
 - “Nevertheless!” (1 Kings 11:1-8)
- We Must Be Humble & Not Think That We Are Different & Can “Handle” It!
 - Then: It’s Going To Take:
- A Sensitive Heart!
 - We Need To See & Feel What Sin Is!
 - It Is A “Great Evil” Against God!
 - Every Sin! All Sin!
- And Then – Only Then – Can We Be Restored!

Conclusion:

1. And This All Started Because The Children Were Heard Speaking Another Language!
 - But It Was The Language Of The World!
2. What Do Your Words Reveal About You?
 - Is There Something Deeper That Needs To Be Dealt With?
3. Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers!”
 - This Is The Language We Need To Speak! Comes From The Heart!

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