

“Don’t Lose What You Gained”
(Nehemiah 13:1-31) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

What will be *trending* in the **last days**?

THE CULTURE WILL BE MARKED BY...

- Self-centeredness
- Materialism
- Fractured families
- Hollow religion

END OF THE AGE *trends* SPILL INTO...

- Right and wrong getting blurred
- Counterfeit-Christianity becomes popular
- And speakers reshape truth to appease cultural-desires

IN OTHER WORDS...

- People will stop valuing and supporting Biblical truth.

~ STUDY ~

NEHEMIAH spent 12-years working to establish a healthy ministry (Neh. 5:14)

- He built a wall around Jerusalem for physical protection (Neh. 6:15)
 - AND he led spiritual reforms that gave way to revival (Neh. 8:8-9)
- He re-centered the entire nation on the Word of God.
 - **But** after he left compromise invaded everything.

HERE’S FIVE THINGS WE LEARN:

#1 – THEY LEFT GOD’S WORD

WHEN WE STOP LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD...

- We start living in opposition to His will.

(v.3) “*the mixed multitude*”

- Speaks of those who wanted to associate with God’s people...
 - But who didn’t want to make a commitment to God.

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(Luke 6:46) NLT

“why do you keep calling me Lord, Lord! when you don’t do what I say?”

#2 – THEY STARTED SUPPORTING GOD’S ENEMY

(v.4) *the priest... was allied with Tobiah* (an enemy of God).

- Satan loves to join churches...
 - Rather than oppose us from the outside.
- There are TRAITORS in our midst who...
 - Resist the written will of God & are enemies of God.

(v.8) Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem and got tough on the problems.

HERE’S THE LESON:

- If we don’t guard the temple... the enemy will look for a room.
 - (1 Cor. 6:19) *we are the temple of the Holy Spirit*

#3 – THEY STOPPED SUPPORTING GOD’S WORK

NOT ONLY DID THEY COMPROMISE...

- With **who** they were supporting...
 - **But** they also stopped supporting the prescribed ministry leaders.

LISTEN... IF YOU’RE GETTING TAUGHT THE WORD OF GOD HERE...

- Then it’s your God given duty to bring in your financial support.

(1 Cor. 9:14) NLT

“... the Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it.”

NEHEMIAH...

- Called them out for their failure in this area.

HERE’S THE APPLICATION:

- Spiritual decline shows up in neglected priorities.
 - The ministry slowed because generosity stopped.

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#4 – THEY NEGLECTED PUTTING GOD FIRST

THIS IS AN ISSUE TO LEARN FROM TOO...

- Because it’s seen in the church today.
 - NOT taking the worship of God seriously.

(v.15-b) NLT Nehemiah *“rebuked them.”*

(vv.17-18) NLT Nehemiah *“confronted them...”*

(v.21) NLT Nehemiah *“spoke sharply to them...”*

PASTORS ARE...

- To correct the church with God’s authority...
 - (Titus 2:11-15) NKJV.

#5 – THEY ABANDONED MARRIAGE BOUNDARIES

CHAPTER FLOW...

- 1st They left Gods word.
- 2nd They supported God’s enemy.
- 3rd They refused to support God’s work.
- 4th They abandoned the priority of rest & worship.
- 5th The home fell apart as marriages went against God’s word.

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE LESSON IS REAL:

- Revival must be guarded in...
 - The house of worship
 - Your financial support for ministry
 - Your calendar of priorities
 - Your children
 - Your heart