

Discipline

Nehemiah 13 – *Adam Bowers*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) In chapter 13, Nehemiah came back to Jerusalem to find the Israelites had taken several steps of disobedience toward God. Why do you think this happened in Nehemiah's absence?
- 2) One of the root problems the Israelites faced was allowing the culture around them to influence their lives and even their worship of God. How do we sometimes do this today?
- 3) Although God's people are supposed to be set apart from the world, we are also supposed to influence and engage with people who do not follow God. How can we maintain a healthy balance between being separate yet integrated?
- 4) Nehemiah found that Eliashib the priest had allowed Tobiah, an enemy of Nehemiah and of God, to fill temple storerooms reserved for providing for temple leaders. Today, people who trust in Jesus are collectively the temple of God. How do we fill up our "storerooms" with things that push out what God wants to be there? What are some ways to clean out those rooms and fill them with the right thoughts and activities?
- 5) One of the sins of the people was failing to provide resources for the ongoing worship of God at the temple. Paul continued to support the principle of giving back a portion of what God has blessed us with to support the ministry of the local church (1 Corinthians 9:14, 1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17-18). Why do you think God wants his followers to continue giving money to the church even though the temple is now distributed among his followers?
- 6) What was your biggest takeaway from this week's message and how do you plan to respond to it?