

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 13

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 3/18

1. How has letting your guard down after a spiritual mountaintop experience caused you to be disobedient to God?
2. The Israelites of Nehemiah's time found themselves in the typical "sin cycle" of Rebelling, Returning, Repenting, and then Resting in God. How do we see this cycle play out throughout the book? Where are they now? And how can you relate to this cycle in your life?
3. Nehemiah instructed the Levites to "guard the gates" (13:22) and even the gatekeepers to "shut them" (7:3) to protect Jerusalem from outside influence at certain times. How do you see this idea relating to Paul's words in Romans 12:2 (not conforming to the patterns of this world) and 2 Cor. 10:5 (taking thoughts captive)?
4. When it comes to the areas Nehemiah was concerned about having better guarded, which ones do you relate to the most and why?
 - Rooms of Your Heart (Temple) v.7
 - Generosity v.10
 - Rest v.17
 - Home v.25
5. We cannot guard these gates or any other gates on our own. If we try, we will fall into the same sin cycle as the Israelites. Plus, God wants to do it with us. So with God's resurrection power in us (Rom. 8:11) it is possible to live in more freedom and consistent rest with Him. Individually or as a group, pray for one area you want to live in greater obedience to God and ask for His power to do so.