

“A Faith Maintenance Plan – Part 2”

April 18, 2010 * Nehemiah 13

Quick review of last week

- A. What happened to Nehemiah?
- B. What then happened to his people?
- C. So what do we need to do to maintain our faith?
 1. We must learn how to connect to God through His _____ . By...
 - a. First learning how to _____ it.
 - b. Then learning the actual teachings or _____ in it.
 2. We must learn how to connect to God through His _____ .

Why Is Having A Spiritual Community Around Me Important?

- I. Without a spiritual community around me I will fall back into _____ . (vss.4-9)
 - A. What does Nehemiah learn that the high priest Eliashib has done?
 - B. How is this like me?
 - C. What three things must I do in my fight against sin?
 1. Throw the _____ out of your heart.
 2. Then _____ your heart. How?
 3. Fill up your heart with _____ & _____ things.

Ephesians 4:22-24 – “...put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires...be made new in the attitude of your minds...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

B. What else is absolutely essential?
To do these three things successfully, we must do them with Christian _____ or _____.

- II. Without a spiritual community around me I will fail to _____ God as fully as I should (vss.10-14)
 - A. Because people weren't tithing, what else was happening?
 - B. What important concept do we teach in our church?
 - C. What good could be unleashed if everyone bought in to this?
 - D. How can being in a community help me serve God fully?

- III. Without a spiritual community around me, the world will _____ me out and _____ me down. (vss.15-28)
 - A. What happened to the Jews in these verses?
 - B. Why is the 'world too much with us'? What happens if we start to gaze overly long at the world?
 - C. What can break the spell of the world?
 - D. Why are godly leaders important?
 - E. What was the secret to Nehemiah's leadership?

“A Faith Maintenance Plan – Part 2”
April 18, 2010 * Nehemiah 13

Quick review of last week

A. *What happened to Nehemiah?*

He returned to the Persian king.

B. *What then happened to his people?*

They returned to their old ways.

C. *So what do we need to do to maintain our faith?*

1. *We must learn how to connect to God through His*

Word. *By...*

a. *First learning how to read it.*

b. *Then learning the actual teachings or doctrines in it.*

2. *We must learn how to connect to God through His people.*

Why Is Having A Spiritual Community Around Me Important?

I. *Without a spiritual community around me I will fall back into sinful habits.* (vss.4-9)

A. *What does Nehemiah learn that the high priest Eliashib has done?*

He has given their arch-enemy Tobiah an apartment in the middle of the temple.

B. *How is this like me?*

When we return to our old ways after becoming a Christian.

C. *What three things must I do in my fight against sin?*

1. *Throw the bad stuff out of your heart.*

2. *Then purify your heart. How?*

By confessing our sins to God, not once in a blue moon but each and every day.

3. *Fill up your heart with good & godly things.*

Ephesians 4:22-24 – “...put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires...be made new in the attitude of your minds...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

B. *What else is absolutely essential?*

To do these three things successfully, we must do them with Christian brothers or sisters.

II. *Without a spiritual community around me I will fail to serve God as fully as I should (vss.10-14)*

A. *Because people weren't tithing, what else was happening?*

Those who were meant to serve God full-time had to return to their old jobs to support themselves. Which meant that ministry which God wanted done, wasn't getting done.

B. *What important concept do we teach in our church?*

That the church doesn't have one minister but a couple of hundred.

C. *What good could be unleashed if everyone bought in to this?*

If everyone in our church gave 2-3 hours a week to serve others, it's staggering to think of the good that could be unleashed.

D. *How can being in a community help me serve God fully?*

A healthy church will provide the opportunities to serve. It will also provide the incentive to serve. And the training to serve. And the encouragement.

III. Without a spiritual community around me, the world will **wear** me out and **wear** me down. (vss.15-28)

A. What happened to the Jews in these verses?

They stopped observing the Sabbath Day. They stopped tithing. They started intermarrying again with pagans.

B. Why is the 'world too much with us'? What happens if we start to gaze overly long at the world?

The world has so much to offer us, it seems. And the world is filled with people who on the surface seem to be having so much more fun than we are. And gradually, the world puts us under its spell.

C. What can break the spell of the world?

Being part of a community where you can find other people holding the line against sin and Satan and the world.

D. Why are godly leaders important?

Because they show that it is possible to live differently. Not that you're perfect, but you're more on than off when you are ready for leadership.

E. What was the secret to Nehemiah's leadership?

He loved God, and he loved God's people. He kept crying out to God, "Remember me, remember me." He stayed connected to God even when he was alone. And though his people drove him nuts, he never copped an attitude with them. He never thought he was better than they were. Like Jesus, he laid his life down for them.