



June 18, 2023
“Reality Check”

Nehemiah 13

Summary – We want life to be a fairy tale where conflict is cured and we live happily ever after. Nehemiah 13 is another Achilles heel in that dream. Scripture is real, true and shows us both the wins and the losses of God’s people. Instead of ending in victory, Nehemiah ends in defeat. This gives us wisdom to navigate down times and shows our need for a greater than Nehemiah.

Scripture – Nehemiah 13, 10:30-39; Matthew 4:9; Ezekiel 36:25; Romans 8:13; Hebrews 12:4; 2 Samuel 12:1-7

Community Group Questions:

Introduction

- Why is finishing strong so important/rare?
- How do you respond to reality checks?

Get Angry (Neh. 13:8; Rom. 8:13; Heb. 12:4)

- “If you’re not angry, you’re not paying attention.”
- What does it mean to mortify sins?
- “We’ve exchanged truth for tolerance.” Why is mortification such a difficult word for the church today?

Confront and Warn (Neh. 13:11,17,28; 2 Sam. 12:1-7)

- Why do we struggle when confronting our own sin and the sin of others?
- “We need more Nathan’s in the world.” How do we keep people accountable?

Remove and Replace (Neh. 13:7-9,28; Matt. 4:9)

- What are the benefits/challenges of protesting and nonparticipation?
- If you protest and stop participating, what are you replacing it with?
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said, “When lies are everywhere we need to become a people of truth.” How can we “Live Not by Lies” as well?
- “Humans require more than just our own resolve (firm covenant).” In moments of temptation, do you have someone to call for encouragement?