

ADDRESSING PROBLEMS
(Nehemiah 13:1-31)

- I. TOLERATING the Heathen (Neh. 13:1-3)
 - A. No Ammonite or Moabite should be PERMITTED in their WORSHIP (cf. Deut. 23:3-6)
 - B. “They EXCLUDED ALL FOREIGNERS from Israel”

- II. ABUSING the Temple (Neh. 13:4-9)
 - A. Tobiah the Ammonite had a RESIDENCE in the TEMPLE
 - 1. Arranged by “Eliashib the PRIEST”
 - 2. It was a SIGNIFICANT space for an apartment
 - B. Nehemiah EMPTIED the space and had it PURIFIED
 - C. He returned the TEMPLE goods to their PROPER storage space

- III. NEGLECTING the Levites (Neh. 13:10-14)
 - A. They had STOPPED PAYING the Levites and the singers
 - B. The regular WORSHIP SERVICES had CEASED
 - C. Nehemiah REHIRED them and organized their SUPPORT
 - D. He PRAYED for God to honor his “FAITHFULNESS”

- IV. FORSAKING the Sabbath (Neh. 13:15-22)

- A. Many were WORKING on the Sabbath (cf. Ex. 20:8-11)
 - B. FOREIGN merchants SOLD their imports on the Sabbath
 - C. Nehemiah REBUKED “the nobles” for “PROFANING the Sabbath”
 - 1. He locked the MERCHANTS out of the city for the Sabbath
 - 2. He prevented LOADS from entering the city on the Sabbath
 - 3. He ordered the Levites to SANCTIFY the Sabbath day
- V. DEFILING Marriage (Neh. 13:23-29)
- A. Many had taken HEATHEN WIVES
 - B. Nehemiah was LIVID
- VI. CLOSING Words (Neh. 13:30-31)
- A. He asks God to remember the DEFILED priests and Levites
 - B. He ORGANIZED everything for MAINTAINING worship
- IV. Lessons
- A. How QUICKLY people can DRIFT spiritually
 - B. The necessity of REDEMPTION for the FINAL kingdom in GLORY