

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

24 – 28 September 2007

## **NEHEMIAH: MAN OF PRAYER & ACTION!**

### **#10 THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- When did you take shortcut during a project which led to humorous and/or disastrous results?

**TRAINING OBJECTIVE** To discuss the importance of not compromising our faith.

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Read Nehemiah 13:1-9

- Reading God's Word, what did the people discover? What was their response?
- What did Nehemiah discover when he returned to Jerusalem?
- Who was Tobiah (see 4:3; 6:1), and why did this news upset Nehemiah?
- What three steps does he take to correct the problem? What principle can we draw from this?

Read Nehemiah 13:10-14

- What aspect of temple worship was being neglected? What was the result?
- How does Nehemiah rectify the problem?
- Who does he put in charge of the storage and distribution, and why?

Read Nehemiah 13:15-22

- What is the third abuse that Nehemiah discovers? What was God's command (Exodus 20:8)?
- What steps does he take to correct the problem and prevent further abuse of the Sabbath?
- As it relates to our lives, what broader principle we can learn from verse 22?

Read Nehemiah 13:23-31

- What is the fourth problem Nehemiah encounters?
- How does he deal with the offenders? Why is he so fanatical (as some might say)?
- Three times in this chapter (14, 22, 31) Nehemiah prays what might seem like a self-centered prayer. What do you think he meant; what was his motivation?
- How do we discern what does or does not constitute dangerous compromising of God's standards? When is it time to take action (or not)? How did Nehemiah know?

#### **APPLICATION**

- What area of your life do you need to purify and then set up a better guard against future attack or temptation (vs 13:22)?

*If you know about something in your domestic life that's in violation of what you know God has commanded, take that problem by the throat – **do** something about it! Your personal life is so important to God. He longs to direct your steps. If you are careless, all sorts of 'Tobiahs', such as 'financial selfishness' will cause you to stray from the path the Lord has planned for you. All those areas of rest God wants to give you, you will fill up with worry and you will secularize what the Lord has made sacred. By and by, these things will consume your entire life.*

*Chuck Swindoll, "Hand Me Another Brick: Timeless Lessons On Leadership"*