

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ*

29 April - 3 May 2002

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

### **#11 THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- If people stopped supporting the church so that pastors had to go back to work to support themselves, what would the impact be?
- What makes Sundays different than other days of the week for you... or is it?

#### **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 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 (Exod 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?

#### **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)?
- Is there something you or your family might want to do differently to honor God's command to keep the Sabbath holy?

*Virtually every time we find Jesus angry, the object of his wrath is religious hypocrisy. Jesus consistently condemned religious leaders for performing external acts of righteousness for the attention of the people while inside their hearts were far from God and full of unrighteousness. (Matt 15:7-9, 23: 1-7, 28-29). They were doing what they thought were good things but doing them for the wrong reasons. The very activities that should have drawn the people closer had turned into religious showmanship. We can fall into the same kind of hypocrisy if we're not careful. Do we pray and sing to be heard by people or by God? We need to be more concerned with what God thinks than man. Let's not compromise our religion.*

*Michael J. Wilkins in Moody, Jan/Feb 2000*