

# Being a Man of God

## Nehemiah 13

### Introduction:

1. Have you ever heard the expression, *"When the cat's away, the mice will play?"* This is exactly what we find to happen in **Nehemiah 13**.
2. Nehemiah had to leave Jerusalem where he had led a major rebuilding project. The Jews that had returned there had experienced an incredible revival under Nehemiah's leadership.
3. Nehemiah had to go back to Babylon to report to the king of Persia. This chapter records what Nehemiah found when he returned to Jerusalem. He was shocked. He couldn't believe his eyes. **Things had fallen apart while he was gone.**
4. **But once again Nehemiah proved to be a man of God and a true leader in every sense of the word. We desperately need some men to be like Nehemiah, who will rise and be godly men, godly dads, godly husbands, and godly leaders today.**
5. I am sure also that you have heard the expression, *"He's a man's man."* In other words, he is tough, rugged, and cool. The world will define this for you by the actors that are portrayed in front of you, the shows that are played on TV, (*John Wayne – "If*

*you're looking for fight young fell, I'll accommodate ya!") (Clint Eastwood – "Go ahead punk, make my day") (Robert Conrad in an Everready batter commercial – "Go ahead, I dare you, knock this off my shoulder, I dare you")* the social media craze that is ramped through TikTok/YouTube/Instagram, Snapchat and it is setting the standard by the clothes you wear, your haircut, your fitness if you are athletic, your looks, your job, money, where you live, your education, and so on. So many directions and pulls, it is confusing.

6. **I submit to you today that It takes more guts, more strength, more courage, and more backbone to be God's man than to be a man's man as the world and Hollywood defines it.**
7. **Every man can be God's man. Exactly what is a man of God? We are going to learn from one of the greatest leaders in God's Word - Nehemiah.**

**# 1. The man of God perceives sin and it bothers him.**  
**Nehemiah 13:4-9**

1. While Nehemiah was gone, the priest over the temple, Eliashib, had taken a room of the temple that was reserved for temple needs and had made a living chamber for Tobiah. **Vs. 4-5**

2. Tobiah was an Ammonite Gentile that had opposed Nehemiah greatly. He mocked, ridiculed, and tried to hinder the rebuilding of God's wall in Jerusalem.
3. While Nehemiah was gone, Eliashib had prepared living quarters in the temple for this rebel. What does Nehemiah do when he gets to town? (**Read verses 7-9**) Nehemiah understood the evil (**vs. 7**), and it grieved him sore (**vs. 8**).
4. **Here is the lesson: God's man is keenly aware when something is sinful and wrong, and it bothers him.**
  - **Romans 12:9 - Let love be without hypocrisy. Hate what is evil. Cleave to what is good.**
  - **Amos 5:15a - Hate evil and love good...**
5. **A man's man will go along with the crowd (Isaiah 5:20-23), but sin grieves God's man.**
  - **Isaiah 5:20-23 - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who exchange darkness for light, and light for darkness; who exchange bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight! 22 Woe to those who are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink, 23 who justify the wicked for a reward, and take away the justice of the righteous from him!**

**So # 1 was that The man of God perceives sin and it bothers him.**

**# 2. The man of God is passionate about God's work.  
**Nehemiah 13:10-14****

1. The Levites were God's appointed servants that were to work full time in their oversight of the temple and all of its various aspects. They were to be completely devoted to God's work and the people of Israel were to provide for their physical needs.
2. **When Nehemiah arrives, the Levites aren't at the temple; they are out in the fields working (vs.10)! The people hadn't been giving to provide for their needs and the house of God was forsaken (vs. 11). Nehemiah quickly gets things back in order. **Vs. 11b-13****
3. **Notice Nehemiah's prayer in verse 14. What made Nehemiah so passionate about the work of God? It was important to him (**Romans 12:11**).**
  - **Romans 12:11 - Do not be lazy in diligence, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.**
4. **Guys - may our families and friends see in us a burning passion for God's work on this earth.**

**# 1 was that The man of God perceives sin and it bothers him.**

**#2.**

**The man of God is passionate about God's work.**

**# 3. The man of God makes God's Word his absolute guide. **Nehemiah 13:15-22****

1. The Sabbath day rolls around & once again Nehemiah can't believe his eyes. **Vs. 15-16**
2. God's law to Israel was very clear. On the Sabbath day (Saturday), they were not to do any kind of work, nor were they to buy or sell. It was a holy day of rest.
3. **While Nehemiah was gone, the Jews were openly profaning God's Sabbath. Why would they do this? Take one guess. It padded their pocketbook. It was fiscally advantageous.**
4. This is how a man's man decides things. Will it help me? Will it make me look good? Will it make me come out on top? If the answer is "yes", then go for it.
5. **But what does God's man do? Does Nehemiah figure out how he can get in on the action? Does Nehemiah overlook it? Does Nehemiah try to get them to cut him in a percentage? Nehemiah doesn't join them or overlook it.**

6. **Nehemiah takes a strong stand against these people. Vs. 17-19**

- A few people decide to push Nehemiah (**vs. 20**), but Nehemiah would not be intimidated (**vs. 21**).  
What a man – he was God's man!

7. **Here is the application: God's man takes God's Word and uses it as his guide in making daily decisions.**

- It isn't a matter of what is popular or what is expedient or what is most beneficial. The issue is, **"What does the Bible say?"**
- **Titus 1:9** is insightful. **Holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.**
- **"Holding fast"** means you have a solid grip and won't let go. **I.E.> swinging a baseball bat and letting go of it.**

**The man of God perceives sin and it bothers him.  
The man of God is passionate about God's work.  
The man of God makes God's Word his absolute guide.**

**In Conclusion:**

1. You have to decide. Do I want to be a man's man or God's man? Nobody can decide for you. The choice is yours. It takes courage and commitment to be God's man, but oh the blessings that we experience when we do.
2. Guys, can I leave you with a verse? **Ephesians 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.** God's man has strength and power, but it comes from God, not his own fleshly effort.
3. Decide today who you are going to be. Become a man of God.