

***Cursing, Fighting & Hair-Pulling (in the Name of the Lord)***

Nehemiah 13:1-31

Pastor John Sloan

**Introduction:** Have you ever had one of those “mountaintop” spiritual experiences? Where you just felt God’s comforting presence in a remarkable way? Those encounters are blessings from the Lord. Those are occasions to be relished. *But even the greatest spiritual moments come to an end.* Until Jesus returns to fix this broken world we can expect trials and struggles. Spiritual highs are sweet, but how do we respond when they’re over?

**After the Revival is Over****01.****02.****03.**

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[A Study Through Nehemiah]



1. Who was Tobiah and why was his temple intrusion such a big deal? (See vv. 7-8) What did Israel’s tolerance of such an “evil” act say about their spiritual condition?
2. How do we confront our own spiritual apathy? What can we do when we don’t *feel* like loving or obeying God?
3. In what way does Nehemiah point us to Christ in this passage?
4. The Israelites were to honor the Sabbath for God’s glory and their own joy. How was keeping the Sabbath meant to be a mark of Israel’s distinctiveness?
5. “Sin becomes more reasonable the longer we consider it.” What does this statement mean?
6. What is *identity amnesia* for the Christian? What are its consequences?

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“And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.” *Mark 11:15*

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“If on his first visit he had been a whirlwind, on his second he was all fire and earthquake to a city that had settled down in his absence to a comfortable compromise with a Gentile world.” *Derek Kidner*

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01. Spiritual apathy is inconsistent with the status of those who have been redeemed.



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02. The slide into blatant disobedience is a consequence of losing our identity.



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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

“Though lip service is paid to the gospel of grace, many Christians live as if only personal discipline and self-denial will mold the perfect me. The emphasis is on

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what I do rather than on what God is  
doing. In this curious process God is a  
benign old spectator in the bleachers who  
cheers when I show up for morning quiet

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time. Our eyes are not on God. We believe that we can pull ourselves up by our bootstraps—indeed, we can do it ourselves.” *Brennan Manning*



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03. Prolonged faithfulness flows from  
a preeminent love for God—  
motivated by his exclusive love for us.



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