

## Homegroup Questions - Sunday 14th May 2023

The final part of our sermon series on Nehemiah - Nehemiah 13

The aim of today's sermon was to reflect on Nehemiah's actions after returning to Jerusalem and seeing just how much society had 'slipped' in his absence, how the people of Jerusalem had fallen back into their old ways and neglected their promises to live as God's people.

The problems were serious....

- Tobiah had taken over a room in the Temple, thereby changing the purpose of the Temple
- The Levites were not being provided for to enable them to lead Temple worship. They had to return to their fields, so Temple worship was being neglected
- The promise of keeping the Sabbath special had been broken and it was now just another 'market day'
- The people of Jerusalem had abandoned their promise not to intermarry with other peoples, again breaking a promise they had made to God.

What a disaster!

Being a member of St. Luke's and seeking to build God's Kingdom in this place will always face difficulties and potential setbacks because of resistance from the world.

1. What do you see as the problems you face and the church faces going forwards?
2. Are there any areas of your own life or the church's life where you feel you might have broken a promise or no longer keep up with an area of discipleship in your life?
3. What could you do about that?

In this morning's talk, I mentioned some other passages that refer to the battle we face in helping to grow the Kingdom of God.

4. Spend some time looking at Philippians 1:27, 1 Timothy 6:11 & 1 Peter 5:8. What can you learn about the struggles we face and how can we overcome them?

I also spoke about the need to continue growing in our relationship with God, both as individuals and together as a church community. I mentioned 2 Corinthians 3:18.

5. How might that happen during a vacancy?

And finally, I talked a little about the need to continue and grow our prayer lives, both individually and corporately. Nehemiah was clearly a man of prayer (Nehemiah 1:4).

6. How might you seek to deepen your prayer life and the prayer life of the church during this next period of vacancy? How could you contribute to the prayer life of the church at this time?

*Keep building, Keep battling, Keep growing with God & Keep praying !*

*With my love and prayers for the future,*

*Matthew*