

# NEHEMIAH

BUILDING A CITY  
WITHIN THE CITY

**Week 20**  
**You have got to be kidding**

Read Nehemiah 13:1-14 for an overview of the passage.

## Context

Nehemiah's governed Judea for 12 years, after which he returns to Susa. During his absence, the people gradually abandon their covenant (10:28–39) turn their back on God and His law. They set Tobiah up in the temple while shutting down temple services and stop tithing. At the same time they marry worshipers of false god's diluting their faith and forsaking God's law.

## Compromising the Gospel

Reread Nehemiah 13:1-5,10. Consider what the people of Jerusalem have done in such a short time during Nehemiah's absence.

Why was God so animate that any Ammonite or Moabite enter the assembly of God? (see Num 22-25)  
Does this mean there is no redemption for these people? (see Ruth)  
What inspired the people to realign with the will of God?  
How does your consistency with being in Scripture affect your daily obedience to Christ?  
How do you think it felt for Nehemiah to see Tobiah living in the temple of God?  
What would be a righteous motivation for his anger? What would be an unrighteous motivation?  
Be honest, what makes you more angry: an offense against God or an offense against you? Why?  
What is your emotional response to your own sin when you offend God?  
Where have you let ammonites/Tobiahs into your life?  
Where have you let the service and worship to God go unattended?

## Defending the Gospel

Reread Nehemiah 13:6-14. Think about Nehemiah's response to this offence against God.

What does Nehemiah do when he hears of the direction that Jerusalem has taken?  
What is your natural response to Nehemiah physically kicking Tobiah out of the temple?  
What in that description make you uncomfortable?  
Where in your life is God calling you to stand up and defend the Gospel?  
When are you prone to unrighteous anger? How about an unrighteous response to righteous anger?  
When are you prone to passivity when you should be angry? What keeps you from acting?  
How does Nehemiah's prayer in light of his actions change your understanding of anger?  
Would you be comfortable praying that prayer personally? Why or why not?

## Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on the attributes of God and the elements of the Gospel you see in this passage.  
How do your thoughts and actions testify to the truth you see in these Scriptures?  
Pray that this scripture would transform your life and renew your mind.