

NEHEMIAH

BUILDING A CITY
WITHIN THE CITY

Week 21
Sabbath

Read Nehemiah 13:15-22 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. In this section we see that the people of Judah have continued to move away from God and his word by forsaking the Sabbath.

Desecrating the Sabbath

Reread Nehemiah 13:15-22 considering the purpose of the Sabbath.

- In what way is breaking the Sabbath a heart condition?
- What does it reveal about the hearts of the people in Judah?
- When do you Sabbath?
- What distracts you from taking a Sabbath day?
- What deeper issues are revealed by our casual view of the Sabbath?
- In what areas have you slid back into behavior or thinking that has drawn you away from God before?
- What does it look like to repent and glorify Jesus from this point forward?
- What day will you Sabbath from today on?

The Response

Reread Nehemiah 13:6-14. This time focus on the response of Nehemiah?

- How does Nehemiah respond to the people breaking the Sabbath?
- What surprises you about his response?
- How does your view of scripture effect your perception of the appropriateness of his response?
- Would you feel comfortable rebuking a brother or sister in Christ? Why or why not?
- What offenses would stir you to rebuke someone?
- In what areas of your life do you need a rebuke?
- How are the concepts of restoration, redemption, and rebuke related?

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.