

#16 "Stewardship Has Its Blessings"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah – Study Notes

Eastside Christian Fellowship: Dec. 9, 2007

Text: Nehemiah 10:30-39

There were basically four vows made within the covenant found in chapter 10.

1. To submit to God and carefully adhere to (walk in) the Word of God.

2. To be equally yoked in our most important relationships

- ? As a parent or a future parent how important is it to you that your son or daughter dates or possibly marries someone who is a Christian? What does II Corinthians 6:14-17 say about this? Is it only talking about marriage? What other relationships would apply to this? What will you teach your children?
- ? How does this work in real life? Is separatism what we are seeking as Christians? Why or why not?
- ? What is the community in Jerusalem separating themselves from? Why is this important at this juncture in their life and community of faith?

3. To honor the Sabbath.

- ? Are you a person who has a problem resting or is the whole idea of a Sabbath difficult for you? Explain.
- ? What was the original intent of God to bring about a Sabbath day?
- ? What are the benefits and downfalls of working too much? How has the notion of 50-70 hr work-weeks, very little actually taken vacation time and higher expectations in the workplace changed our culture? Explain.
- ? This is really a vow to be responsible with their time and activities. How do you do in this area?

4. To accept the responsibility of being wise, faithful stewards of their finances.

- ? What is the difference between being an owner of your resources or being a faithful steward of your resources?
- ? Who really owns all that we have? What does Psalm 24:1 say about this?
- ? As far as finances; what do you consider to be enough? How is that determined in your mind? Is it determined by how much you need/want or the opportunities that are out there to make an impact?
- ? Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What are the attitudes or motives of giving that Paul is talking about and what is the result of that kind of giving?
- ? In Nehemiah, it speaks about giving of our first fruits. What does that mean for us today? Is that only in our finances? What is the result of giving our first fruits in all that we do? How does that affect our job and how others view our work ethic? How does it affect our parenting, ministry etc?
- ? What is the teaching you would like your children model to from your life concerning finances? How can you impress upon them at an early age, the importance of being a steward rather than an owner?

It's important to realize in all of this that Jesus calls for us to examine our own hearts, motives, thoughts etc. It is not your job or burden to examine other people's life and determine what their heart or motive is. Stay faithful and focused on what God is calling you to be!

Quotes to ponder: *Mother Teresa who said, "If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving."*

C.S. Lewis put it this way, "I don't believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I'm afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."