

Firstfruits
Nehemiah 10

Review

1. The people of Nehemiah's generation promised to avoid entanglements with people of other cultures – in the same way, we must avoid getting involved with sin
2. The people of Nehemiah's day promised to keep the Sabbath – in the same way, we need to nurture our relationship with God by spending regular time with Him
3. The people of Nehemiah's day made a commitment to support the work of the Temple with their tithes and offerings – since our Temple is the worldwide Church, our financial commitment should be at least great as theirs.

Go further – Read Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

1. In Genesis 2:2, what did God do on the seventh day after creating the Heavens and the Earth? What sort of example is He setting for us?
2. In verse 3, why did God say He sanctified, or set the Sabbath day apart?
3. In Exodus 16, the Lord's people have not yet reached Mt. Sinai where they will be given the Law of Moses. Why do they complain against Moses and Aaron in verses 2 and 3?
4. What does God say He will do about the people's problem in verse 4? What does this tell us about God's patience?
5. In verse 5, what does God say will happen differently on the sixth day?
6. In verses 12 and 13, what else does God provide for the people? Why does He say He will do this?
7. In verses 14-16, what sort of food does God provide for His people and what does He tell them to do with it?
8. In verses 17 and 18, how much food do the people end up with? Does the amount they receive depend on how hard they have worked? What spiritual lesson can we draw from this truth?
9. In verse 21, how often did the people have to gather the manna? What spiritual lesson can we draw from this truth?
10. In verse 22, how much extra did the people gather on the sixth day? In verse 23, what did Moses tell them to do with this extra food?
11. Compare verses 20 and 24. What was the difference between food leftover on other days, and food leftover on the Sabbath day? How does this miracle confirm God's desire for us to rest on the Sabbath?
12. When some of the people tried to work on the Sabbath day in verse 27, what happened?
13. What lesson did Moses teach the people about the Sabbath in verse 29?
14. In Exodus 20:8-11, the commandment to keep the Sabbath is incorporated into the Ten Commandments. Why do you think God told the people to "remember" the Sabbath day in verse 8?
15. How does verse 9 tell us to keep this commandment on the other 6 days of the week?
16. How does verse 10 tell us to keep this commandment? To whom does it say this commandment applies?
17. In verse 11, what is the reason God gives that we should keep the Sabbath?

18. In Deuteronomy 5:12-15, we find the commandment to keep Sabbath given again. What is the reason that God gives for us to keep this commandment in verse 15?

Apply:

1. How can we follow the example of the people of Nehemiah's time where it comes to our money? How much should we give, and to whom should we give?
2. How can we make proper preparations to keep the Sabbath all week long?
3. To be holy means to be set apart. What sorts of things can we do to set the Sabbath day apart from the rest of the days of the week?
4. How can we help others keep the Sabbath?
5. How does keeping the Sabbath help us worship God with our time?