

The Dangers of Compromise
Nehemiah 13:4-9, 23-31

Review:

1. Even though the people had been through a genuine revival, they fell into compromise when Nehemiah returned to the Imperial Court in Persia
2. In spite of his opposition to rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem, Tobiah moved into a room in the Temple complex, probably because the people wanted a strong leader to replace Nehemiah
3. The people turned away from God's Law, marrying women from other cultures, and neglecting to teach their children the language in which the Bible was written
4. We are still tempted to put our faith in human leaders or to consider our feelings as more important than God's Word.

Go further – Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20

1. In verse 15, Who does God say should pick the king to rule over the people? What does this say about how we should select our own political leaders?
2. Why do you think God didn't want His people to let a foreigner rule over them? How could this principle apply to us as we vote for elected officials?
3. Verse 16 mentions horses. Horses and chariots were the most powerful weapons of land warfare at the time. Why do you think God didn't want His kings to have lots of horses? What does this say about the faith we should put in armies and navies?
4. Verse 16 mentions Egypt, which was one of the superpowers of the time, and an exporter of horses. Why do you think God didn't want His kings to depend on Egypt for their weapons? What does this tell us about the alliances we form with other nations?
5. What two things does verse 17 prohibit kings from doing? What reason does it give for these prohibitions?
6. What do verses 18 and 19 say that kings must do? How does this apply to modern believers?
7. What three reasons does verse 20 give for kings learning the Law of God?

Read I Kings 10:14-11:8

8. Why does 10:24 say Solomon was so respected?
9. Which part of God's law did Solomon break in 10:14-21?
10. Which part of God's law did Solomon break in 10:26, 28 and 29?
11. Which part of God's law did Solomon break in 11:1-3?
12. What happened to Solomon in 11:4-8?

Apply:

1. In what sorts of worldly things are we tempted to place our faith?
2. How does Solomon's experience serve as a warning to modern Christians?