

9/1/19

**Recap of 8/18/19 (Nehemiah 13:14-31):**

1. "This book underscores the importance of physical protection for God's people in Jerusalem but, more importantly, it stresses the need for His people to obey His Word, not giving in to sin through neglect, compromise, or outright disobedience." (Getz)
2. The Word of God once again had a positive effect upon the people. When we hear or read or study the Word it can change us. When we do not hear or read the Word it cannot get into our lives. It's not about knowing more information about the Bible, or even about knowing more doctrine (although that is crucial because there is a dearth of sound doctrine in the church today). It's about the amount of the Word of God which is assimilated into our lives. It is explained in part this way: "When the Scriptures saturate our souls, we are more likely to act on them. This is different from articulating correct doctrine or professing profound ideas. Instead, truth becomes so deeply embedded in how we think and act that to act apart from it sounds ridiculous." (Discipleship Journal)
3. In 13:14, Nehemiah calls upon God to remember him; the first of four prayers of Nehemiah in chapter 13 (vv. 14, 22, 29, 31). Prayer was an integral part of Nehemiah's life and leadership. The One Year Study Bible NLT categorizes his prayer this way:
  - Prayer anchored his life and leadership.
  - Prayer was a reflex for him (showed his dependence upon God) (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
  - Prayer was coupled with practical steps (e.g. 4:9)
  - "Nehemiah's greatest challenges were bathed in prayer" both for physical needs (the wall) and for spiritual needs (the people).
4. Leadership lessons from Nehemiah: he set the example, he was courageous, responsible, visionary, decisive, prayerful, powerful and yet compassionate. He didn't ask: "How can I please the people?" He asked: "How can I please God." His overarching concern was pleasing God and doing His will.