



Sermon Series Notes

"Conviction, Confession & Commitment" (Nehemiah 9-10)

Danny Hodges OT2345

I. CONVICTION (9:1)

* This conviction comes right after the events of chapter 8. In response to being taught the Word of God, the people mourned and wept (8:9b). Then they were told not to weep, but to celebrate. So they did. They celebrated The Feast of Tabernacles for seven days (Lev.23:34). Chapter 8:17b tells us that their joy was very great. Now three days later (9:1), they assembled together, fasting and wearing sackcloth. Despite the great joyous worship time they had just experienced, they are once again convicted of sin. And this conviction of sin produced something in their hearts that is essential for the blessing of God to be upon one's life. It produced humility. If there is anything we need desperately, it is humility.

* James 4:6; I Peter 5:5

* Prov.18: 12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

* Prov.11: 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

* Note: It's always better to humble yourself than to have God humble you. But most of us choose the latter. That is certainly the case here. Despite God's grace and mercy toward Israel, they sinned and rebelled against Him. And even though He is doing a fresh work under the leadership of Nehemiah, they are still in a situation that is a direct result of their sin and rebellion. Though the temple has been restored, the walls are built, and people have repopulated Jerusalem, Persia still rules over them. And after hearing the Word of God (chapter 8), these people have a fresh understanding of exactly why they are in the situation they are in, and what got them there.

II. CONFESSIOIN (9:2-37)

A. Confession Of Their Personal Sin And Their Sinful Heritage (9:2-4).

B. An Acknowledgment Of God's Greatness (9:5-6)

* 9:5-6 His name is blessed above names. He alone is the Lord. He made the heavens, even the highest heavens. He is the glorious Creator. He gives life to everything. He alone should be the object of our worship

B. An Acknowledgment Of God's Goodness, Grace, and Mercy (9:7-31).

C. An Acknowledgment Of God's Faithfulness As Opposed To Their Unfaithfulness (9:32-35).

D. An Acknowledgment Of The Blessings Forfeited Because Of Sin (9:36-37).

* What they could have had if they had not rebelled

* II Sam.12: 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.

9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes?

* Luke 13: 34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate.

III. COMMITMENT (9:38-10:39)

A. The Seriousness Of Their Commitment (9:38-10:29)

* These guys are not only making a verbal commitment, but they are putting their commitment in writing.

B. The Commitment

1. We will not give our children in marriage to an unbeliever (v.30)

* How does this play out in our culture?

2. We will not allow money to become our god (v.31)

* We will trust God in the area of wealth and finances

* Note: The 70 year captivity was that long because for 490 years the Israelites had failed to forgo working the land. God gave them one year of captivity for every seventh year they did not let the land rest (Lev.25:2-7)

* The cancelling of debts was in the year of Jubilee (Lev.25:8-55).

3. We will give to support the work of "the house of God" (vv.32-35).

4. We will honor God with every increase He gives us (v.36)

5. We will give in such a way that the storehouses of the "house of God" would always be full (vv.37-39).

CONCLUSION

* Ever made a commitment to the Lord and failed in that commitment?

* What I should consider before making a commitment to the Lord?

a. Don't make rash commitments

- Luke 14:25-35

- God always wants us to know what we are getting into; other examples?

See Deut.20:2-9.

b. Don't make commitments you are incapable of fulfilling

- I will "never" do that again

- Rom.7:19; "By the grace of God, I will never do that again." "Lord, please help me to never do that again."

- Elder years ago that believed God wanted him to get up at 5 am every day for the rest of his life.

c. Find others who will make the same commitment as you so that you both can help one another be accountable.

- Years ago Tim Wolter and I made a commitment to run together on certain mornings each week. On some mornings, if Tim had not shown up at my door, I would have stayed in bed. And on more than one occasion, I was in bed when he came to the door!

* What should I do if I have made a commitment and failed in fulfilling it? (See Nehemiah 13:15ff).

a. Confess

b. Repent

c. Renew your commitment

d. Find others who can help you be accountable