

# NEHEMIAH

## Chapter 13 – 5/5/19

### OVERVIEW

Beginning something new is exciting! Whether it's a new hobby, adventure, eating plan or exercise routine, it usually includes determination and enthusiasm. But if we can't stick to it and follow it through, can we succeed? If we don't continue in the trajectory we began with such determination, we will return to our default. How do we stay the course?

Scriptures: Nehemiah 13:4-12, 15-21, 23-27 (NLT); Ephesians 2:19-22 (NLT); I Corinthians 16:2 (NLT); Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT); II Corinthians 6:14 (ESV)

### APPLICATION

1. Think of something you've failed at in life. Do you know why you failed?
2. The definition of entropy is lack of order or predictability; gradual decline into disorder. Share how have you seen spiritual entropy in your life.
3. In Nehemiah 13:15-21, Nehemiah responds to the people's spiritual entropy (decline into disorder) by reminding them — often in very angry, violent ways — that their ancestors went down the same wrong pathway, ignoring God's commands. What are some lessons that previous generations ignored that you are failing to pay attention to in your own life?
4. Ephesians 2:19-22 calls the people "citizens" of the Kingdom of God, along with being a member of the family of God. If that is true of you, describe how a citizen avoids spiritual atrophy.
5. The people of Nehemiah disobeyed God by ignoring the tithe, treating marriage sinfully, and treating the sabbath inappropriately. Which one of those do you see as a particular difficulty in your life? (money, marriage, sabbath/meeting together)? Why do you think it's such a difficult area for you to gain traction? If those topics don't resonate, what area does?

Homework: Spend some time this week looking at your budget. If you don't have one, spend time this week making one. What does the way you spend your money tell you about where you are growing? Where are you experiencing entropy?