

Planning to Keep Our Promises

Nehemiah 10

We need to reflect godly priorities in every area of our lives.

1. Relationships (v30)

2. Work and Rest (v31)

3. Worship (v32-37)

4. Finances (v37-39)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. What's it take to get your attention? What would your spouse say it takes? When was a time in your life when God got your attention?
2. What is it about a conference that allows God to break through? What needs to happen after a conference in order to make real change in someone's life?
3. Look at the four areas covered by Sunday's message from Nehemiah 10 (relationships, work and rest, worship, and finances). Read the text for each and discuss what the issue was for the Israelites, and what it is for us.
 - A. Relationships (v30): Why were intermarriages not allowed? See Exodus 34:15-16. Is there a NT equivalent? (See 2 Cor 6:14) What happens in a marriage where the partners are not equally yoked? How about a business partnership? What does this say about how you choose your friends? Does this mean we should have no contact with nonbelievers?
 - B. Work and Rest (v31): What is Sabbath? How do we achieve it? Is it missing in our lives? Is it Sunday for us? Why did God establish a one-in-seven rest cycle for us? Why did He establish one for the land (resting the land every seventh year)? What happens when we ignore this cycle? What helps us observe Sabbath rest in our lives?
 - C. Worship (v32-36): How easy is it for you to skip worship on Sunday morning? How many Sundays of 52 in a year do you attend worship? What do you say to the person who says "I don't need to be in church to worship"? Describe your personal worship. What time do you do it? How long does it take? What materials do you use? What procedure do you follow? What difference does it make?
 - D. Finances (v37-39): Some people have said that the tithe (giving 10% to God) is a legalistic relic from the Old Testament and that the New Testament doesn't say anything about it. Look at Matthew 23:23. What did Jesus say about the tithe there? You've probably heard, "One of the reasons I stay away from church is that churches are always asking for money!" Does that ring true of River Hills? Do we mention it too much, not enough, or just about right? Should it be a part of the regular teaching of Scripture at River Hills? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being excellent health and 1 being critical condition, what shape are your finances in? What got them that way? What can improve upon them?