

Dealing With A Malignancy

Nehemiah 13

Sin is a malignancy that needs early detection, quick correction and constant vigilance.

1. Early detection (v7, 10, 15, 23, 28)
2. Quick correction (v8-28)
3. Constant vigilance (v9, 13, 19, 25, 29)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. If your great-grandfather could come back for a visit today, what things would he notice that are different than in his day? How many of those things are just things you take for granted and don't even notice?
2. Nehemiah returns from a two-plus year absence to find that the problems in all four of the areas addressed in chapter 10 (Relationships, Work & Rest, Worship, Giving) are back in chapter 13. Compare 10:30 with 13:23; 10:31 with 13:15; 10:32 with 13:4; 10:37 with 13:10. How did they fall so quickly back into sinful patterns? How can we avoid doing the same?
3. Read Hebrews 3:12-13. According to this passage, what is the root of the problem that leads people away from God? What's the solution mentioned?
4. Read Psalm 36:1-2. Compare a couple of translations. What is the problem David is describing here? How does this reflect his own life and experience (consider 2 Samuel 11 and 12)? How can we avoid this same problem ourselves?
5. What were the things Nehemiah did to correct the problems he found? Do you think his methods were too harsh? Why or why not?
6. What is the role of personal accountability in keeping us from sin? Who helps you stay accountable? How can you make the most of an accountability relationship?
7. Notice the prayers of Nehemiah 13:14, 22 and 30. Why would those be included in this book?