

Mothers Day

Nehemiah 13:15-31

"In those days I saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. Men from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this wicked thing you are doing—desecrating the Sabbath day? Didn't your forefathers do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity upon us and upon this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath." When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. But I warned them and said, "Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will lay hands on you."

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From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.

Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples, and did not know how to speak the language of Judah. I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves. Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?" One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him away from me.

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Remember them, O my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.

So I purified the priests and the Levites of everything foreign, and assigned them duties, each to his own task. I also made provision for contributions of wood at designated times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me with favor, O my God.

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Nehemiah's Return Pattern

- * Look at Where You Are Sinning – Breaking your word
 - Sabbath, Intermarriage, Tithe, Temple Worship
- * Did You Forget The Past? – Yours to Learn From
 - unfaithful Israel, Solomon, breaking vows
- * Put Things Right – Or Else there Is Trouble
 - repent, purify, get ready to be blessed
 - obey, change actions, get moving

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*Note – Nehemiah convinced that God's way Will Work!

- showed in his life – evident through history recorded
- desires God's blessing for the generations to come

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me." John 14:21-23

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“These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Deut. 6:1-9

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Mothers Have Incredible Influence:

- patterns for life, relationships, values, shape lives

Mothers Have Incredible Pressures

- culture changes – new rules to an old job
- experts are abundant – new thoughts and expectations
- children change – just when it's figured out – irrelevant

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1. Mom – Establish The Baselines!

a) God's Word is Authoritative, True – Trusted

- relevant to today's culture, problems, needs

b) I Need To Build My Relationship With God

- can't pass on what I don't have
- know what bible says – God talks about parenting
- know when God speaks – personal, listening
- committed to obedience – respond with change

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2. Mom's – Check All Theories vs The Truth!

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.” 1:7-9

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.” Proverbs 31:25-26

- a) Important to separate cultural ideas and biblical truth
- b) Wisdom, faithful instruction – key traits to garner
- c) Children – allow parents to see beyond what you see, and practice obedience to biblical principles

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So What

1. Lessons For All Of Us

- a) Where are we ignoring God's truth for our opinions?
 - giving, Sabbath, dating, intermarriage, parenting...
- b) Are we Allowing God's Truth To Bring Repentance?
 - asking for forgiveness, aligning with truth
- c) Repenting means turning from – change
 - do our actions reflect changes in our hearts?

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2. Mom's Can Impact Generations – Leave Legacy

- a) Starts with Your Walk With God
- b) Need to Establish that God's Way Brings Blessing
- c) Learn to Listen to God's Holy Spirit – testing things
- d) Build Relationships that Allow:
 - wisdom to be passed on
 - truth to be heard and embraced
 - God to honor your family