

July 5 Discussion Questions:
The Reward of Prayer – Nehemiah 13
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What were the three sins that Nehemiah had to deal with when he returned from being away (13:1-14, 15-22, 23-31)?

Read Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 What specifically had the people promised to do before?

How did they end up sinning in the exact ways they vowed not to? What do you think happened between chapter 10 and chapter 13? Do you ever notice that same tendency to wander from God in your own heart?

Does Nehemiah’s response seem strong to you? Was he wrong or right in the way he reacted? What is the correct way to deal with sin? How is Nehemiah’s situation different than ours is today?

Is it hard to point out sin in our brothers and sisters in Christ? Why? Where did Nehemiah find the courage to deal with the sin the way he did?

Each section of this chapter ends with a prayer from Nehemiah (13:14, 22, 31). What do these prayers show us about Nehemiah? What about the prayer in verse 29?

Nehemiah prayed that God would remember his good deeds and reward him for His work with God’s people, even though they weren’t very consistent in their obedience. It’s kind of a sour note on which to end this story. What do you think might be the point the author was trying to make by ending this way?

When our hearts are inconsistent and our best efforts to serve God seem fruitless, why can we still ask God to remember us and reward us? What part does Jesus play in this?