

Nehemiah 13:10-14

Forsaking the House of God

- Last wk: After 12 yrs as governor, Nehemiah returned to Artaxerxes. Cat away, mice ... Eliashib → Tobiah, double crime; Nehemiah returns and...

- Challenge to us: any righteous anger bubbling in there?
- This wk: right on the heels, v10, "I also realized" or "I also discovered..."

SIDE NOTE:

Surprised: thought would be "Pray me,"
→ NT connections

- Pray. I pray that zeal for Your house would eat us up! Make us a faithful people.

- v10, The problem is discovered.

- Having thrown Tobiah the Ammonite's household goods out of temple storeroom, Nehemiah makes another unwelcome discovery. *Welcome back!*

- Not normal number of people working in the temple. Scaled down work force.
- Speculation: notices, asks, "Levites, singers gone back to farms outside Jerus..."

Context!

- Ch 10, entered into covenant → bring firstfruits/tithes to provide for priests/Levites.

- Ch 11, Jerusalem: priests (1,192); Levites (456) → Levites/singers/gatekeepers.

- Ch 12, dedicate the wall, seek out Levites from all their places, 12:29, "for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem." → 2 large choirs.
thanksgiving

- 12:44. Well served. Late chapters filled with activities of Levites. Faithfully doing.

- Favorite: Ch 8, Ezra reads, v7, Levites "helped the people to understand the Law", v8, "they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading."

- Our text today is a partial unraveling of this. Why partial?

- Sequence: either priests/Levites, or priests, Levites/singers/gatekeepers.

- Our text says Levites and singers → gone back to fields.

No mention of priests, gatekeepers | I am arguing they are still on job.
– being without provision –

Temple is still running just a little differently

- v11, Nehemiah responds. We know Nehemiah as a man of action, so he is!

