

Watchman Part 5

Nehemiah Final Reforms

Nehemiah as watchman continued to establish all the mandatory arrangement to make the people settle peacefully in and around Jerusalem with peace and with full understanding and clear responsibility given to all the people. To everyone of the priests and Levites he gave them responsibility and task to do. Therefore and in the same way we should endeavor to do the following:

1. Watch that everyone should be appointed to do certain responsibility in the body of Christ: At the time of the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem we can read part of Nehemiah's good arrangement and administration: *"44 And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited. 45 And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. 46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God. 47 And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron."* (Nehemiah 12:44-47) Watchmen were appointed to watch and care of what are stored in the storerooms. The priests and the Levites were doing their duties well and maintain holiness (purification) and that motivated the people to continue to bring their contributions and offering to maintain God's service. * **When you serve God and do your ministry well, and nurture the people well toward holiness, then they will be motivated and led by God to bring what is due from firstfruits, tithes and offerings to maintain God's church and ministry.** * The ministry of the praise and worship were taken care and workers appointed and assigned to maintain songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

You will grasp further reform and what ordain for you as watchman from *Nehemiah 13*.

2. Watch that Certain people cannot be part and kept inside the church unless they are repented: *"1 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever; 2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. 3 Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude."* (Nehemiah 13:1-3 KJV) The Ammonites and the Moabites were the descendents of Lot. They were the product of Incest. Incest as a definition is a sexual relation between relatives who are forbidden by law to marry; for example, between father and daughter or mother and son. The Ammonites and the Moabites were the product of the sexual relationship of Lot with his daughters under the influence of alcohol. People who are living in a similar way, and people who does not wish us good and their spirit against us or even curse us, *"Because they met not the children of*

Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them:", or who promote immoralities among us as Balaam taught the Moabites to entice the Israelites to commit sin against God as we can read here: *"1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel."* (Numbers 25:1-3 KJV) *"14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."* (Revelation 2:14 KJV) **Therefore we need to be watchful that such people shall not infiltrate the rank of the church and ensnare or push others to sin.**

3. Watch that certain workers or leaders will not use their authority to abuse and use the resources of the church to support people who have destructive effect on the ministry: *"4 And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: 5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests. 6 But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king: 7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. 8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff to Tobiah out of the chamber. 9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense."* (Nehemiah 13:4-9 KJV) * **Even when we appoint people to do certain ministries, as here Aliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of God, we still need to continue to watch over them, and check if they are keeping the instructions that we gave to them.** * Those whom we appointed certain times they are under pressure or tempted, so they may do mistakes, therefore we need to keep eye to deal with evil if it happening. * **Be watchful and take a correct measure to deal with evil doers and those who are enemies of God, who infiltrate the church, who are corruptive and manipulative and try to live in opportunistic way which would promote wickedness and work of the Devil among us. You should know and be ready that brave and bold decision for correction needed to be taken when things goes in wrong direction.**

4. Watch that the tithes and offerings are collected carefully from all the church members and watch for the wise and fruitful use of the church income: *"10 And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. 11 Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. 12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries. 13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to*

*distribute unto their brethren. 14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.” (Nehemiah 13:10-14 KJV) * Keep clean record of the church income with proper labels for all the tithe and firstfruit givers and the amount given, as well as the rest of the offerings, and proper records of all expenses with full details. * Also I admonish all the workers and the leaders and pastors to teach and admonish the people to bring their tithes, firstfruits and offerings into the store house of God so the spiritual food in the church will continue to be available for the lost and for the people to be disciplined. * The tithes, the firstfruits and the offerings will be used to support the living of the workers and the pastors of the congregations who are doing the work of God.*

*5. Watch that the rule of the Sabbath is observed by all: “15 In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. 16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. 17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? 18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath. 19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day. 20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. 21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath. 22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.” (Nehemiah 13:15-22 KJV) * Every member should attend the church services on weekly bases and get involve in various prayer meetings and Bible studies. * Everyone should observe one day rest in a week, a rest for the physical body and refreshment for the weary soul. Also you should watch that people will not come to the church for a wrong purpose (looking for girls, finding job, getting business, finding customers, selling and buying, etc.) Such people if they will get inside the church their presence will invite troubles in the life of the church and the ministries. * I pray and I call for discernment for all the workers to observe all these details so that our worship to God will be acceptable and our ministries will be fruitful in making disciples and raising up genuine people who love and fear God.*

6. Watch and deal appropriately with the unlawful marriages: “23 In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: 24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. 25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto

*your sons, or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. 27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives? 28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites. 30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;” (Nehemiah 13:23-30 KJV) * Certain marital situations that does not glorify God and brings disgrace to Him and set bad example to others needed to be sorted out in a manner that glorify God and bring order and discipline inside the church. * Key persons and workers who are put in charge of services they should be the first people to give good example and sound teaching about marriage. * They should not approve marriages with non believers, divorce or remarriage, or a single parent to marry not the father nor the mother of her or his child or children. If they will do that then they will bring disorders and lead others to do wrong. * If such things happen such co-workers needed to be admonished, disciplined and if it is needed the ministry should be taken away from them so order will be reinstated and others will take heed and not to do wrong.*

7. Watch and maintain the flow of the people first fruit and various contributions to maintain the service at God's church: “31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.” (Nehemiah 13:31 KJV) When the workers needs are secured temptations are minimized and discipline will be well maintained. God will reward you and will reward everyone who will work to maintain the system and the arrangement that God had ordained for his church to pass through.

My dear and Beloved: “17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” (1 Timothy 5:17 KJV) Apply the message in your life and be a faithful watchman who watch and care for God's church and the ministry under your care. Commit yourself that you will do your best to support God's service in His church.

Let us pray

***My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that open my eyes to see the truth from the Scripture. Lord thank you for all what you had placed in my hand and thank you for all the teaching, the encouragement and the correction that we received from you and your Word.*

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your disorder, lack of good stewardship and your lack of the fear of God. Confess and renounce your compromises, your corruption and condoning the sins of certain people inside the church. Confess and renounce your worldliness doing your own will and following your own plan. Confess and renounce your condoning for unlawful marriages. Confess and renounce your irregularity to come to

the church and your non willingness to give your tithes, firstfruits and your offerings in full. Confess and renounce your lack of discernment and your non willingness to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word in doing your will and whatever you had planned for me. Lord I put in your service everything that you had given to me in order that your ministry and your church will go forward in reaching the loss. Lord give me discernment and watchfulness to observe and to take timely and precise decision to glorify your name and bring honor to you. Lord I commit my life into your hand, take me and make me a faithful and fruitful watchman for your glory, Lord give me good health to continue to serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to obey you and start to serve you and be faithful watchmen and watchwomen. Lord reward them and prosper their families, children and ministries. Lord make them good testimonies that others may see you in their lives and start to follow you.

Lord, bless us as your church, and sustain us to continue to implement your Word in the life of your church, and in the life of our members, workers and families. Lord give us discernment and lead us with your Spirit to take the right decision. Lord we commit ourselves to do our responsibilities well as watchmen and watchwomen for your church. Lord raise up more faithful watchmen and watchwomen to serve you and do your works and your will. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to evangelize, making new disciples and training new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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