

Remembered for Good

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And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Isaiah 38:3

Introduction:

- A. Christians crave to hear Jesus say to them, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*
- B. Christians know the Lord on his throne of judgment will mark sheep by good done.
- C. Both events are found in the same chapter of three divine lessons (Matt 25:21,31-40).
- D. Both events need the Lord to remember good things you have done for His kingdom.
- E. But a life lived zealously for God and His cause justifies asking Him to remember, which Hezekiah did in the title text when Isaiah told him he would certainly die.
- F. True pastors want hearers to live so they can say, *Remember me, O my God, for good.*
- G. This sermon is not about your pastor or for him; it is for you ... and for all the church.
- H. Think only one thing with me – *Lord, convict and help me do greater good for Thee.*
 - I. Read and appreciate Paul's excitement to help you do good (Phil 4:1; I Thess 2:19).
- J. Every man gets a few events in life for big and hard decisions to be great before God.
- K. Read Nehemiah 13 carefully, considering its five sections, and read it again carefully.
- L. Nehemiah was a man; God made him a leader; women and youth can also be good.
- M. His inspired prayer is for God to remember his good (3) and compromisers' evil (1), which creates a dramatic difference for His blessing and mercy (Neh 13:14,22,29,31).
- N. Every male here is or will be a leader of a wife, children, grandchildren, church, etc.
- O. The Bible has few leaders like Nehemiah, so we have considerable written about him.
- P. A leader must be vigilant about compromise in his sphere and do godly good always.

REMEMBERED FOR LIMITING FRIENDS (1-3)

- A. Bible reading, public or private, is essential to know God's will for our lives, which we heard last Sunday from Psalm 27:4 and Wednesday night by, *Most Amazing Book.*
- B. Public Bible reading is powerful, and we should appreciate it and pay attention as well as we are able, which we learn from the first verse here and elsewhere (Neh 8:1-12), though our generation is hindered by availability of constant audio-video perfection.
- C. God had cursed the two nations resulting from Lot's incest with his daughters for their unkind treatment of their distant cousins Israel, when the church came out of Egypt.

- D. When the regathered Jews heard this warning, they got rid of all their worldly friends.
- E. For there to be worldly friends to get rid of ... they must have had them. Shame!
- F. James, inspired by the same Spirit, preached against any friendship with the world.

Application #1: When you hear something from God's word, do you do it with zeal?

Application #2: Do you, your wife, or children have friends from the mixed multitude?

Application #3: Do you grasp David's seriousness about this matter in his life (Ps 101)?

Application #4: Remember the subtle danger of unlike friends (I Cor 15:33; Prov 13:20).

Application #5: Let us pick the best friends we can by spiritual character, not likeability.

REMEMBERED FOR PROTECTING THE CHURCH (4-9)

- A. Eliashib had befriended and accommodated Tobiah, a cursed Ammonite (Neh 2:10).
- B. This enemy of God, though a priest, had altered God's temple for his pagan friend.
- C. How did this occur? While Nehemiah was gone on business to report to Artaxerxes.
- D. This matter grieved Nehemiah sore, meaning in common terms that he was very upset.
- E. But he did not stop with being grieved – he did something – he threw the stuff out!
- F. He did not stop with just getting rid of the problem – he replaced it with God's things.
- G. Paul laid the one foundation of Christ and we must wisely build on it (I Cor 3:10-17).

Application #1: Error can happen by those that should know better. Hate it anyway!

Application #2: We as a church must avoid evil alliances, and so must you individually.

Application #3: When gone or distracted with other duties, the mice must be checked!

Application #4: Do you get sorely grieved, do you sigh, for the errors of men (Ezek 9:4)?

Application #5: What do you need to throw out of life or home? What should replace it?

REMEMBERED FOR HONORING THE LEVITES (10-14)

- A. Nehemiah considered (and perceived) about the poor financial situation of the church.
- B. He rebuked the rulers and put the Levites and singers back in their appointed places.
- C. He ordained *faithful* men to take charge of the financial duties. Are you such a man?
- D. Nehemiah served God with zeal, so he asked to be remembered (Is 38:3; Psalm 20:3).

Application #1: Consider the church, ministry, and poor financially (Ps 41:1; Pr 28:27).

Application #2: Are you aware and insightful to see and correct any kingdom shortfalls?

Application #3: Let us do our best to let no one and no activity fall through the cracks.

Application #4: You will need God's help, not if, but when; will He recall you? for what?

REMEMBERED FOR HONORING THE SABBATH (15-22)

- A. We do not keep the Sabbath, but we should do all with holiness, reverence, godly fear.
- B. Nehemiah was always looking, and he was not fooled or swayed by public practice.
- C. When he saw something wrong, he testified against it; he did not choose to be silent.
- D. He did not pick on the poor traders doing business, but the nobles leading the city.
- E. He brought to bear the history of God's people, which is our teacher (I Cor 10:6-11).
- F. He took practical measures to stop the evil and to keep it from happening again.
- G. He paid a price by assigning his own men to watch the gates until a new policy.
- H. When some took steps to avoid his rules, he threatened them with violence. Glory!
- I. Again, we have the inspired prayer of a righteous man for God to see and remember.

Application #1: It is your duty, as mine, to exhort and warn (I Thes 5:14; Heb 10:24-25).

Application #2: When you see something wrong, if it is not a liberty, testify against it.

Application #3: Do you know the Bible so you can raise examples of sin from its history?

Application #4: When you make a change in policy, are you wise enough to find sneaks?

Application #5: Are you wise as a serpent to devise practical blocks to sin in your family?

Application #6: Are you man enough to threaten violence (and follow thru) against sin?

REMEMBERED FOR STOPPING AFFINITY (23-31)

- A. Nehemiah always inspected the activities and situation around him and saw affinity.
- B. He did not care that children were involved – he was not effeminately sentimental.
- C. Consider his violence against this horrible sin, just as God had been with the Flood.
- D. Again he brought to bear the Biblical history of Solomon's great error in this matter.
- E. He was not open to listening to their excuses, justification, or reasons for such sinning.
- F. The high priest's grandson had married Sanballat's daughter. Josephus – Mt. Gerizim?
- G. Nehemiah ignored the status of both parties to this abominable marriage (II Chr 18:1).
- H. This great man showed the right use of prayer against the enemies of God, for before asking God to remember him for good, he asked God to remember their compromise.
- I. For the third time in this chapter, Nehemiah asked God to remember him for good.

Application #1: Be vigilant. Look critically around you. Especially at all relationships.

Application #2: Marriage in the Lord is incredibly important, and you must enforce it.

Application #3: You may have to take strong measures to marry your children in Christ.

Application #4: Reject what your child might say. Solomon probably had his reasons!

Application #5: No matter the reputation or status of either party – hate all such affinity.

Application #6: Marriage starts with dating, dating with friends, friends with contacts.

Application #7: You remember what happened to Dinah due to lazy father and brothers?

Conclusion:

- A. Here is the inspired record of a great leader, and you should want to be just like him.
- B. When men are honored like this in scripture, it is God setting them up for us to follow.
- C. His inspired prayer is for God to remember his good (3) and compromisers' evil (1), which creates a dramatic difference for His blessing and mercy (Neh 13:14,22,29,31).
- D. God has made men leaders of wives, children, grandchildren, church, neighbors, etc.
- E. But our women and youth (even convicted children) can be zealous to do godly good.
- F. You are responsible to look, inspect, draw conclusions, and correct wrong by Bible.
- G. Every man gets a few events in life for big and hard decisions to be great before God.
- H. Revival or worship fit for God often requires getting rid of things and replacing them.
 - I. When all junk has been thrown out, replace it with godly inputs for family perfection.
- J. God bless the vigilant, faithful, and zealous in the day of need and in meeting Christ.
- K. A wonderful fact is the Bible promises He will not forget your work (Hebrews 6:10).
- L. True pastors want hearers to live so they can say, **Remember me, O my God, for good.**
- M. Think one thing with me – *Lord, convict me and help me do greater good for Thee, and remember my good done for Thee, and spare me by the greatness of thy mercy.*