

SOLVING PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

I. Nehemiah was concerned (1:2-3).

- A. Nehemiah wanted to know how his brethren back home were doing.
 - 1. He cared about them and wanted things to be well.
 - 2. He was concerned about people.
- B. We need to be concerned about the as a whole.
 - 1. There are problems congregations in our brotherhood are facing that have the potential to be devastating.
 - 2. Liberalism and denominationalism are rampant.
 - 3. We need to be concerned about these problems in order to help our brethren as we can and so that we are not affected by those same type problems.
- C. We need to be concerned about our congregation.
 - 1. There are people in the congregation who are hurting.
 - 2. Are we showing concern about them?
 - 3. Last week we had 74, the week before that 75 and 79 the week before that.
 - 4. Are we concerned about the future of this congregation?
 - 5. It can't just be a handful of people if we want something substantive done.
- D. We have got to show concern about problems.

II. Nehemiah communed with God (1:4-11).

- A. Once the concern was shown, Nehemiah communed with God in prayer.
- B. This was a great trait of Nehemiah's.
 - 1. At least six times we read about him turning to God in prayer in the midst dealing with a problem.
 - 2. He relied upon God for strength and wisdom in order to handle the multitude of problems he faced with the Israelites.
- C. God can help us handle the problems the Lord's church faces.
 - 1. It doesn't matter if it is a personal problem, a congregational problem or a brotherhood problem.
 - 2. God can and will help us with them if we commune with Him in prayer.
- D. We also need to commune with God in His word.
 - 1. There is not a problem we face that God's word cannot handle.
 - 2. As mentioned earlier, 1 Corinthians deals with problems from beginning to end.
 - 3. Galatians, Jude and many other books deal with problems we face as Christians.
- E. If we use prayer and God's word we can handle any problem.

III. Nehemiah was conscious of problems.

- A. When Nehemiah first arrived, he went at night to view the city for himself with a few trusted aides.
 - 1. From this trip he set his plans.

2. He viewed the situation and saw potential problems and the best way to handle them.
- B. When threatened, instead of quitting, he encouraged the people to have a weapon in one hand and work with the other.
1. He also devised a signal to bring help to an area of the city that came under attack.
 2. His main problem was rebuilding the walls and he had to find ways to do this in spite of other problems.
- C. If there is a problem in the congregation it needs to be dealt with in a way that is best and fitting for the situation.
1. Eyes of leaders need to be opened for problems and solutions.
 2. Heads can't be buried in the sand and a "hope for the best" attitude allowed to flourish.
- D. Problems can't be allowed to linger because they simply get bigger instead of going away.
- E. We can't deal with them if we refuse to be conscious of them.
- IV. Nehemiah was careful in handling the problems.**
- A. Attempts to get Nehemiah alone or to lose face were made.
1. He was asked to meet with his enemies in one of the cities of the plain of Ono (6:2).
 2. He was encouraged to go into hiding, thus showing fear and losing face with the people he led (6:10-12).
- B. If you notice, these two attempts came from without and within.
- C. Sadly when a congregation, an eldership, a preacher or a Christian, is trying to do right, there will be some from within who will try trickery or deception to humiliate or defeat the good.
1. Lies have been told in order to get power.
 2. Character has been attacked to get someone fired.
 3. Evil lurks and the ones doing right need to make sure to be careful in the way they handle a problem.
- D. There are always attacks from without.
1. If we are the Christians God would have us to be, we will not allow ourselves to fall into any traps laid for us.
 2. We will not give those that seek to cause problems any ammunition to use against us.
- V. Nehemiah was conclusive in how he handled problems.**
- A. As you read this great book, you see that Nehemiah pinpointed the problem and was conclusive in how he dealt with it.
1. The walls needed repair and he caused the people to get right to work.
 2. The people were threatened with attack and he devised a plan of action to keep the people working.
 3. When he left and came back and found the Levites were not being taken care of, he immediately handled it (13:10-12).
 4. People were working on the sabbath and he confronted them (13:15).

5. The Jews were staying in their mixed marriages and he handled it immediately (13:25-27).
- B. Plans need to be made and quickly put into action to deal with problems.
 1. If members are in sin, it must be quickly dealt with in order to save them and keep the church pure.
 2. If a family is failing to attend as they should, they need to be seen about quickly before they fall away.
 3. If false doctrine is being taught then it needs to be quickly and biblically handled.
 - C. Each one of the problems Nehemiah faced was handled in a way that was in accordance with God's word.
 - D. That is how problems are to be handled and they need to be conclusively dealt with in a timely manner.