

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Nehemiah 13

Not Again!

Getting Started

How do you feel about moles in your yard? What have you done about them?

Background

The Israelites have recommitted themselves to the Lord, and dedicated the rebuilt walls of Jerusalem. Unfortunately, old sins pop up again in ch. 13.



Digging In

1. **Read vss. 1-3.** What problem did they become aware of from their reading of God's word? How did they deal with it?

Setting: Based on the context, the events described in the first 3 verses probably happened **after** Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem from Persia. Note the first words of v. 4, *Before this*.

2. **Read vss. 4-9.** What problem did Nehemiah discover when he returned from Persia? What did he do about it?
3. **Read vss. 10-14.** How had temple worship suffered because of what Eliashib had done?
4. What steps did Nehemiah take to reignite the worship life of Israel?
5. **Read vss. 15-22.** What problem is discussed in this section?
6. Why do you think this was so important?
7. How did Nehemiah deal with this problem?
8. **Read vss. 23-31.** What problem does Nehemiah encounter in this last section?
9. Why was this so serious?

Getting Personal

- Neh 13 talks about "moles" in the life of the Israelite community in Jerusalem. What are some "moles" in the life of the church?
- In what ways are you allowing the world to squeeze you into its mold – in terms of your beliefs, values, speech and actions?
- What would have to change for Jesus to really make himself at home in your life?