

FRIDAY, April 2, 2010:

Nehemiah 10:39 "...and we will not neglect the house of our God."

Praise the Lord, the weekend has finally gotten here! But just a minute...while you're making your plans for the weekend, don't forget the church. For the truth of the matter is, the way you provide for and care for your church reveals a lot about your relationship with God.

The reason church is so different from the rest of life is that it is a reflection and reminder of another world, another Kingdom. When we allow ourselves to get so caught up in the affairs of this life that our church loses its place of importance it means that we have drifted away from the eternal and eternally important.

My reminder to you today is "Beware!" Do not neglect the house of God. Do not neglect the house of God by not attending. Do not neglect the house of God by not supporting it and do not neglect the house of God by not serving it.

Attendance, giving and serving are "indicators" for you. We can say we "delight in the Lord" but words are cheap; however, your indicators offer clear evidence that you are keeping your priorities right.

So have a great weekend, but please do not leave Jesus and His Church out of it.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 14:12

"A minister's job is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable!"

SATURDAY, April 3, 2010:

Nehemiah 11:1 "...the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem..."

In the early days of Nehemiah's rebuilding of Jerusalem, living there was not a very desirable thing. The people had settled into villages and homes and didn't want to uproot their families and move to the rebuilt capital city. But somebody had to do it. Somebody had to be there to man the positions of government, commerce, and other necessary operations of any nation.

Today, you may find yourself in a position that you do not really want to be in. It may be a town, home, job or relationship that is more draining than inspiring. But if you've committed yourself to God, then you've got to believe that God has you there for a reason. Somebody's got to do it; right now it is your turn.

So here is my quick advice: I've learned that the more we put into something the more we will get out of it. Make the best of where you are today. Live with a "second mile" mindset \ do more than is required by giving your B-E-S-T.

I've also learned that God puts us in one place or circumstance to prepare us for the next. Where you are today is not where you are going to be forever. Use this time to grow and develop and thus prepare yourself for the time when God sends another opportunity.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 57:18

"In life, some people always want to be the 'guest'." _John Maxwell, The 360 Degree Leader



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of March 28, 2010

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

What I am thankful for this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, March 29, 2010:

Nehemiah 6:14 *"My God, remember...the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid."*

I want to use today's verse to remind you of something very important. True messengers of God may give a stern and even convicting message, **but they also give hope**. Anytime someone speaks into your life and leaves you feeling worse than before they spoke, it is almost certainly not from God.

If there is someone that is speaking into your life that continually diminishes and demoralizes you, I don't care how "spiritual" they may seem, I strongly suggest that you begin tuning them out. Jesus is always seeking to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10), not destroy and drive away. The voice of our Father says, *"Come let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"*(Isaiah 1:18).

So don't "sugar coat" the areas in your life that need to improve, but also, don't give up on yourself either. If God waited until we "got our act together" before agreeing to interact with us, He'd have to wait a long time! Again, I hear the words of our Savior: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."* (Revelation 3:20)

If the voice that is speaking into your life doesn't sound like that...then I'd shut the door on them.

SCRIPTURE: (see above)

"My mother was a travel agent; she sent people on guilt trips." _R. T. Kendall, Controlling the Tongue p. 15

TUESDAY, March 30, 2010:

Nehemiah 7:4 *"Then God put it into my heart..."*

Over the weekend, I encouraged you to stop and give your life some serious thought. Today's verse gives us one good reason to do so - **It allows God to speak to you.**

When you come to one of those situations in life that you are stumped and don't know what to do, take time for serious thought and prayer. You will find that God will give you direction and answers.

You are not in this thing alone; God desires to be a part of your life and He does not pick and choose. He's committed. He will go with you even through the tough times.

So today, ask believing and keep your heart and mind open to that still small voice of a loving Father who cares for you.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:12

"God has a specific agenda for every person and every organization." _Henry & Richard Blackaby, Spiritual Leadership, p. 146



WEDNESDAY, March 31, 2020:

Nehemiah 8:11 *"So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, 'Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.'"*

If I was a betting preacher (I'm not), I'd bet that I'm writing to someone that is stressed out. On the outside you may look fine, but on the inside you are like a churning hot spring in danger of erupting.

Life has a way of getting us in these positions. If this is you, let me recommend today's verse...

- "Be quiet" (still, at peace, calm) – that is a verb; it is something that you must choose to do.
- "Today is holy (that means it belongs to God) – in other words God is not taken by surprise with anything that is going on in your life; He is working it together for good; He is knitting it into the overall tapestry of your life, and it is going to be OK!
- "Do not be grieved" – you grieve for that which you have lost. Turn that around; begin to praise God for what you have. Be thankful. Rejoice in the Lord for He is your strength.

Can I make a confession...I woke up this morning feeling like a "hot springs." Some unexpected news in my family blind-sided me and I have had a troubled night's sleep. But I am going to practice what I preach. Just preparing this devotional has made me feel better, and my prayer is that reading it will do the same for you.

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8:12

"A great oak is only a little nut that held its ground."

THURSDAY, April 1, 2010:

Nehemiah 9:5 *"Stand up and bless the Lord your God forever and ever!"*

There comes a time that you must make a permanent stand. You determine, "I am going to do this." You say, "I'm going to see this through unto the end."

We have all seen people that were involved but not committed. When the price got too high, when the cross became too heavy, when the fun was over, they bailed out.

This can happen in a marriage, a job, a church and even with God – but don't do it! Most things in life are for a season and that is fine. But there are some things so precious, so valuable and so worth it in the long run that they demand that you stand up and commit to them forever and ever.

Take the time to make that short list and then commit it to memory and to God.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23:6

*"My life began changing when I stopped setting goals for where I wanted to be and started setting the course for **who** I wanted to be."* _John Maxwell, *The 360 Degree Leader*, p. 151