

Sermon Discussion Questions
Two Steps Forward ... Three Steps Back

Nehemiah 13:10-31

October 1, 2017

1. Given the title and theme of the sermon, is there anything in your life that you could identify with that truth that it seems like you took (or take) two steps forward and then three steps back?
2. What did you learn in your life about supporting the ministry in the church? What does giving an offering mean?
3. Do you agree or disagree with this statement, **“The prophets recognized that when the people became careless about the Sabbath, it was an indication of their indifference to God’s will in other areas of life as well”**? Discuss why you agree or disagree.
 - What are some things that compete against honoring one day a week for God—to rest and worship Him?
 - How important is remembering the ‘sabbath’ day to God in our day? (Mark 2:23-28; Acts 13:13-16, 42-44, 16:13; 17:1-3; 18:4; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; what does John call it in Revelation 1:10?)
4. Another problem the Israelites faced was being unfaithful to God (Nehemiah 13:26-27). How are Christians unfaithful to God today?
 - Solomon was considered the wisest man who ever lived, yet he acted foolishly. Read about his folly in 1 Kings 11:1-8. What warning(s) can we take from this?
 - What are ways Christians reveal their faithfulness to God today? How can we tell if Christians are faking it or if their faithfulness to God is real or authentic?
5. Over and over again, Nehemiah asked God to remember him and all his efforts to steer his fellow countrymen toward doing things God’s way (Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 31). Doesn’t that sound selfish? Why was it right for Nehemiah to think and pray in that direction? Read Luke 19:11-26 and describe why it is okay to have that motivation in life (see also 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10).