

“Cleaning God’s House”

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?...” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

A Place for Tobiah

Nehemiah 13:4-7 – (4) “Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, (5) prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. (6) While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king (7) and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.”

Tobiah = What we allow to lodge in our lives that displace the resources of God and depreciates our witness for God.

Displacing the Displacer

Nehemiah 13:8-9 – (8) “And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. (9) Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.”

Opportunity Cost

Nehemiah 13:10-11 – (10) “I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field. (11) So I confronted the officials and said, ‘Why is the house of God forsaken?’ And I gathered them together and set them in their stations.”

Is there a Tobiah I have allowed to lodge in my life?

What must I do in regard to “Tobiah-like threats”?

(1) Recognize

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

(2) Repent

“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.” (2 Corinthians 7:10-11)

(3) Remove

“Neither give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27 KJV)

(4) Replace

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18 NLT)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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