

**Turning Grains of Sand Into Pearls For God**  
**Sermon Outline — Nehemiah 13**  
**Sermon Series: Nehemiah > Repair, Rebuild & Restore**  
**Sunday, May 28, 2023**  
**Kelly Stanley**

+ *John 16:33*, Jesus said, “In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering and frustration, but but be of good cheer, take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted! For I have overcome the world. I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you” (AMP).

**Realistic Lessons About the Christian Life**

1. Your greatest test of faith will always be the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Your greatest display of character has \_\_\_\_\_.

**To Make Pearls For the Glory of God, We Must Deal with the Grains of Sand (Sin) Called:**

1. The sin of \_\_\_\_\_.

+ *Nehemiah 13:4-5*, “Before this had happened, Eliashib the priest, who had been appointed as supervisor of the storerooms of the Temple of our God and who was also a relative of Tobiah, <sup>5</sup>had converted a large storage room and placed it at Tobiah’s disposal. The room had previously been used for storing the grain offerings, the frankincense, various articles for the Temple, and the tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil (which were prescribed for the Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers), as well as the offerings for the priests” (NLT).

+ *Deuteronomy 23:3*, “No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the Lord forever” (ESV).

+ *Nehemiah 13:8-9*, “I became very upset and threw all of Tobiah’s belongings out of the room. <sup>9</sup>Then I demanded that the rooms be purified, and I brought back the articles for God’s Temple, the grain offerings, and the frankincense” (NLT).

+ *1 Corinthians 3:16*, “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

+ *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*, “Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup>for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body” (NLT).

2. The sin of \_\_\_\_\_.

+ *Nehemiah 13:10*, “And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who did the work, forced by necessity, had each fled to his field” (AMPC).

+ *Numbers 18:21-24*, “As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>From now on, no Israelites except priests or Levites may approach the Tabernacle. If they come too near, they will be judged guilty and will die. <sup>23</sup>Only the Levites may serve at the Tabernacle, and they will be held responsible for any offenses against it. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation. The Levites will receive no allotment of land among the Israelites, <sup>24</sup>because I have given them the Israelites’ tithes, which have been presented as sacred offerings to the Lord. This will be the Levites’ share. That is why I said they would receive no allotment of land among the Israelites” (NLT).

+ *Nehemiah 13:11-12*, “I argued, reprimanded and confronted the officers, saying, “Why haven’t you taken care of the Temple? Why have you neglected/abandoned/forsaken the Temple, the house of God?” Then I gathered and assembled the Levites and singers and restored them to their places of service. <sup>12</sup>All the people of Judah then brought to the storerooms — a tenth or tithe of their crops, grain, new wine, and olive oil” (EXB).

+ *Nehemiah 13:14*, “Remember this good deed, O my God, and do not forget all that I have faithfully done for the Temple of my God and its services” (NLT).

+ *Nehemiah 13:6-7*, “I was not in Jerusalem at that time, for I had returned to King Artaxerxes of Babylon in the thirty-second year of his reign, though I later asked his permission to return. <sup>7</sup>When I arrived back in Jerusalem, I learned about Eliashib’s evil deed in providing Tobiah with a room in the courtyards of the Temple of God.” (NLT).

3. The sin of \_\_\_\_\_.

- + *Nehemiah 13:15-19*, "In those days I saw men of Judah treading out their winepresses on the Sabbath. They were also bringing in grain, loading it on donkeys, and bringing their wine, grapes, figs, and all sorts of produce to Jerusalem to sell on the Sabbath. So I rebuked them for selling their produce on that day. <sup>16</sup>Some men from Tyre, who lived in Jerusalem, were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise. They were selling it on the Sabbath to the people of Judah—and in Jerusalem at that! <sup>17</sup>So I confronted the nobles of Judah. "Why are you profaning the Sabbath in this evil way?" I asked. <sup>18</sup>"Wasn't it just this sort of thing that your ancestors did that caused our God to bring all this trouble upon us and our city? Now you are bringing even more wrath upon Israel by permitting the Sabbath to be desecrated in this way!" <sup>19</sup>Then I commanded that the gates of Jerusalem should be shut as darkness fell every Friday evening, not to be opened until the Sabbath ended. I sent some of my own servants to guard the gates so that no merchandise could be brought in on the Sabbath day" (NLT).
- + *Nehemiah 13:22*, "Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and to guard the gates in order to preserve the holiness of the Sabbath. Remember this good deed also, O my God! Have compassion on me according to Your great and unfailing love" (NLT).
- + *1 Thessalonians 4:3*, *Thessalonians 4:3*, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality" (ESV).
- + *Romans 13:7b*, ". . . Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them" (NLT).
- + *Nehemiah 13:20-21*, The merchants and tradesmen with a variety of wares camped outside Jerusalem once or twice. <sup>21</sup>But I spoke sharply to them and said, "What are you doing out here, camping around the wall? If you do this again, I will arrest you!" And that was the last time they came on the Sabbath" (NLT).
- + *Nehemiah 13:22*, "Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy" (ESV)

- Being a \_\_\_\_\_ is the job description of every \_\_\_\_\_, including \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The sin of \_\_\_\_\_.

- + *Nehemiah 13:23-24*, "About the same time I realized that some of the men of Judah had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. <sup>24</sup>Furthermore, half their children spoke the language of Ashdod or of some other people and could not speak the language of Judah at all" (NLT).
- + *Nehemiah 13:28*, "One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest had married a daughter of Sanballat the Horonite, so I banished him from my presence" (NLT).

**How Should We Deal With The Grains of Sand (Sin) In Our Lives?**

1. Tackle compromise \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Handle selfishness \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Attack materialism \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Deal with disobedience \_\_\_\_\_.

- + *Nehemiah 13:31b*, "Remember me, O my God, for good (NASB).
- + *Joshua 24:15b*, Joshua said to the people, ". . . choose this day whom you will serve . . ."
- + *Joshua 24:15c*, ". . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (ESV).

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**On Sunday, June 4, we start a new sermon series based on the Book of Ruth**