

## **Confronting the Thieves of Sabbath Delight**

Nehemiah 13:15-22

In Nehemiah 13, we observe seven ways Nehemiah confronts the thieves of delight. In this scene, we observe that Nehemiah has been away from Judah for a number of years. He has now returned only to find that the people have drifted back into some of their old ways of disobedience. He sets himself to cleanse them *“from everything pagan”* (v30). This message is the second part of a three part series on turning away from everything pagan. In the first part, 13:1-14, we see Nehemiah confronting worldly, “Ammonite” compromises in worship. In this second part, 13:15-22, we see Nehemiah confronting the nobles and the people for *“profaning”* Sabbath. In the third, part, Nehemiah confronts marriages not formed for the glory of God. From this chapter, we learn of specific ways that we too may have drifted, and might again, turn away from everything pagan – particularly in our observance of Sabbath joy. Following are seven ways Nehemiah confronts the thieves of Sabbath delight.

I. Nehemiah observes Sabbath breaking, v15-16

II. Nehemiah contends with the leaders who are allowing it, v17

III. Nehemiah reminds of the disasters from breaking the Sabbath, v18

IV. Nehemiah stops commerce on the Sabbath, v19

V. Nehemiah threatens the compromisers, v20-22a

VI. Nehemiah engages the government of the church, v22b

VII. Nehemiah prays for mercy, v22c

Applications:

**Words for Children to listen for:**

The thieves of Sabbath delight

Cleanse from everything pagan

Loading donkeys

Buying

Selling

Profane

Wound or kill

Diminish

"I will lay hands on you"

Everybody's doing it

The thief comes to Steal, kill, destroy