



PASTOR'S NOTES

Lessons from Nehemiah: Being a Constant Reformer

Nehemiah 13, part 1

Reform has no ending; it is a constant battle. It persists because mankind needs a reformer greater than Nehemiah. We all need Christ, who makes us new.

Even so, until we enter into the physical kingdom of God with glorified bodies, all saints must yield to and depend on his Spirit, persevering and remaining vigilant.

Refusing (Nehemiah 13:1-3)

Previously, revival and reform took place by the power of God's word and Spirit. Genuine revival and reformation always include reading and submitting to God's word.

Again, the people needed reform, so Nehemiah led them back to the word of God.

The trouble with the Ammonites and Moabites:

1. They showed generational rebellion against God and hatred toward his chosen people.
2. They were Israel's closest neighbors, and God desired them to have no evil influence on his people.

There's a beautiful glimpse of God's mercy and grace in Isaiah 56 and Ruth.

Ejecting (Nehemiah 13:4-8)

Sometime during Nehemiah's absence, Eliashib gave Tobiah the Ammonite, his relative, a place in the temple complex to use as a residence.

Nehemiah understood the trouble that Tobiah and his like could cause, so he ensured he didn't make it inside the city's walls. However, while Nehemiah was away, Tobiah got into the city and was invited in by the priest and offered a place to live on the temple mount.

Tobiah is like the unbelieving troublemaker in many churches today who criticizes, lies, and attacks.

At best, Eliashib is a naïve nepotist, and at worst, he is a scoundrel who has elevated his own interest over God, his temple, and the people.

Whether the chamber was available because the people stopped giving or Eliashib made it available, Tobiah had no business in the city, much less the temple complex.

Notice Nehemiah's zealous response in verses 7-8.

Christ Jesus is greater. (See Mark 3, John 2, and Matthew 21)

Three reminders: 1) Don't provide a place for the evil enemy or give him squatters' rights. 2) He should never feel comfortable being around us or our worship. 3) Take it from Nehemiah and the Lord: never allow sin to linger or get cozy.

Returning (Nehemiah 13:9-11)

The governor called out the officials who allowed the travesty on their watch and reinstated the ministers, assuring their provisions again. Bless the Lord for leaders who will not sit idly by when the Lord's house and ministry are forsaken.

Giving (Nehemiah 13:12-14)

Obedience and generosity provide for the preaching and singing at MeadowBrook and beyond.

Consider Giving Truths:

1. God owns everything and entrusts some of it in our care to manage. (Psalm 24:1, Matthew 25:14-30)
2. How we spend and give reveals our hearts and worship. (Matthew 6:24)
3. The Lord instructs us to set aside money to give on the Lord's Day. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
4. The Lord instructs us to be generous and cheerful rather than requiring a mandated amount. (1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
5. Giving is to be done discretely. (Matthew 6:3)
6. Our giving today brings temporal and eternal blessings. (Matthew 6:19-20)
7. The way we handle money says much about our hearts. (Matthew 6:21)




MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, May 5, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



CONNECT people to Christ and His church



FOUNDATIONS for Marriage

New class begins **TODAY** at 10:30 in Room 302

MeadowBrook loves to serve the young families in this community, and Foundations for Marriage is a great opportunity for young couples to build lasting marriages as they learn biblical principles essential for a thriving relationship. If you would like more info for yourself or a young couple in your life, email info@mbchurch.com.

Taught by Al & Barbara Anne Garrett and Joe & Susan Gilchrist



the well
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SECRET SUPPER

Ladies' Night Out

THURSDAY, MAY 9 ★ 5:30-8:00 PM
Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com

GRADUATE
Sunday
MAY 19

ALL High School **SENIORS**, registration ends **TODAY** if you plan to participate in our Graduate Sunday on May 19th.

We will recognize our Graduates during the 9AM Worship Service and have a special dinner that evening at 6:30 PM in the Gym.

REGISTER at mbchurch.com or on the MeadowBrook App
For questions or more information, contact Matt Fike (matt@mbchurch.com)

GROW them as disciples and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
10:30 am - Life Group
4:00 pm - Kids' Choir Rehearsal - Worship Center
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Dining Hall

MONDAY, MAY 6
6:00 pm - Kids' Choir Rehearsal - Worship Center

TUESDAY, MAY 7
9:00 am - Mom Connections - Café '59 & Gym
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
(BBQ Stuffed Potato, Cobb Salad with Chipotle Dressing & Dessert; Kids: Pizza, Chips, Cookies)
6:30 pm - Kids' Choir Musical - Worship Center

THURSDAY, MAY 9
5:30 pm - Secret Supper Ladies' Night Out

KIDQUEST 2024

THE SAME GOD
MALACHI 3:6

JUNE 3-6
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

for Kids who've completed Kindergarten - 5th Grade

REGISTER on the MB App or online at mbchurch.com

mom connections

TUESDAY, MAY 7
9:00-11:00 AM
Café '59 & Gym

2024 BIBLE READING

May 5 - 1 Corinth 3:1-9	May 9 - 1 Corinth 6:1-11
May 6 - 1 Corinth 3:10-23	May 10 - 1 Corinth 6:12-20
May 7 - 1 Corinth 4:1-21	May 11 - 1 Corinth 7:1-24
May 8 - 1 Corinth 5:1-13	

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central

SERVE through missions, ministry and worship



55+ Lunch at Uptown Birmingham & Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Monday, MAY 13 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$5 | Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com/55plus

KIDSTUF COLOR FUN RUN
WEDNESDAY
MAY 22 6:30 PM



KIDS, WEAR A WHITE T-SHIRT!

MIDDLE SCHOOL WHITE WATER CAMP

JUNE 12-14
Cleveland, TN

For students finishing 6th-8th grade

Register at mbchurch.com or on the MB App

HIGH SCHOOL SMOKY MOUNTAIN RETREAT

JULY 8-11
Townsend, TN

For students finishing 8th-12th grade

Register at mbchurch.com or on the MB App

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Martha Vaughn, Aiden Beck

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruet, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Lloyd Matthews, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Danny Maddox, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore, Tom Bentley, Mallory Dunn Bramlett, Kathy Thompson, Susan Mize, Derell Reaves, Tony Fleming, Bennett Tucker, Cheryl Smith, Jimmy Thompson

- Family of Frank Duke in his passing on 4/28
- Family of Vernon Tull in his passing on 5/1
- Chad Kitchens & family in the loss of his great aunt on 4/27
- Elsie Crow, sister of Sharon Draper - ICU Riverview