

Summary

This sermon from Nehemiah 10 focuses on the importance of following confession and repentance with genuine obedience to God. Pastor Mike uses the illustration of a man who repeatedly prayed for God to 'clean the cobwebs' from his life, but never changed, prompting another member to pray that God would 'kill the spider' - addressing the root cause of sin. The people of Israel, after confessing their sins in Nehemiah 9, made a binding written agreement with God to obey His commands, signed by 84 leaders and sealed with their official seals. They committed to three specific areas of obedience: avoiding intermarriage with pagan nations, keeping the Sabbath holy, and properly caring for God's house. The sermon emphasizes that true repentance must be followed by a firm commitment to live differently, and that revival begins with individuals taking God's Word seriously, confessing sin personally, and making genuine promises to live obediently for God.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word and learn from the example of Your people in Nehemiah's time, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to be honest about the areas in our lives where we need to grow in obedience to You. Give us the courage to not just hear Your Word, but to apply it to our lives. We pray that You would speak to each person here today in the way they need to hear from You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one habit or routine that you've successfully changed in your life, and what motivated you to make that change?

Key Verses

1. Nehemiah 9:38
2. Nehemiah 10:28-29
3. Matthew 3:8
4. Luke 6:46
5. James 4:17
6. Luke 6:47-49

Questions

1. What does it mean to 'kill the spider' rather than just 'clean the cobwebs' in our spiritual lives?
2. Why do you think the Israelites made their commitment to obedience a written, signed, and sealed agreement? What does this teach us about making commitments to God?
3. The sermon mentions that it's easier to 'talk the talk' than to 'walk the walk.' Can you think of an area in your own life where this might be true?

4. How do the three specific areas the Israelites committed to (intermarriage, Sabbath-keeping, and caring for God's house) relate to areas Christians might struggle with today?
5. Jesus asked, 'Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?' How would you honestly answer this question in your own life?
6. What's the difference between confession/repentance and making a firm promise to live obediently? Why are both necessary?
7. The pastor mentioned that revival begins with individuals, not with expecting others to change first. How does this challenge your perspective on spiritual renewal?
8. Looking at the house-building analogy Jesus used, what are some 'storms' in life that test whether our foundation is built on obedience to God's Word?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area in your life where you know God wants you to be more obedient to His Word. Write down a specific commitment to change in that area, and share it with a trusted Christian friend or family member who can help hold you accountable. Take concrete steps daily to 'kill the spider' rather than just asking God to 'clean the cobwebs.'

Key Takeaways

1. True repentance must be followed by a firm commitment to live obediently, not just confession of sin
2. The Israelites made their commitment serious by putting it in writing, signing it, and sealing it - showing us the importance of making concrete promises to God
3. Revival begins with individuals taking God's Word seriously, confessing sin personally, and committing to obedient living
4. It's not enough to just 'talk the talk' - we must also 'walk the walk' of faith through obedience
5. Obedience to God's Word provides a solid foundation that can withstand life's storms, while disobedience leads to collapse when trials come

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this powerful reminder that You call us not just to confess our sins, but to live lives of obedience to You. Help us to be people who don't just know Your Word, but who put it into practice. Give us the strength and courage to 'kill the spiders' in our lives - to address the root causes of our sin rather than just asking You to clean up the mess. We want to build our lives on the solid foundation of obedience to Your Word so that when storms come, we will stand firm. Help us to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. We commit ourselves afresh to You today, asking for Your grace to live as faithful, obedient followers. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.