**The Harvest Strategy- Week 5**

***How we fulfill our purpose!***

**We Apply God’s Word**

**Review- Strategy to achieve our purpose. (Connected Flow)**

**Week One- The Great Commandment, Love God and Love People**

**Week Two- We Are What We Believe- The Essentials**

**Week Three- The Great Commission- Go and Make Disciples!**

**Week Four- We Are His Witnesses and His Evidence.**

**TODAY- We Apply God’s Word**

**James 1:22 *“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”***

**Application in the abstract vs. Application in specific areas (SPIRITUAL RENEWAL- WE ARE ALL FOR THAT, RIGHT?) Preaching to Meddling**

**Nehemiah 8- God’s Word read and explained-REVIVAL**

**Nehemiah 9- The people repented and confessed their sin**

**Nehemiah 10- The people make a corporate covenant to put God’s word into practice in SPECIFIC areas**

* **Leaders 9:38-10:27**
* **General obligation (Curse) v.28-29**
* **Agreement not to let their children marry outsiders v.30**
* **To Keep the Sabbath v. 31**
* **To Provide for the maintenance of the temple worship 32-29**

**Comment about VOWS**

* **Be careful about making vows!**
* **We are prone to fall into a legalistic spirit.**
  + **Where you can keep a vow, but not be any closer to the Lord than before!**
* **Biblical balance is: Don’t put yourself under manmade laws or rules that have the appearance of wisdom, *“but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”* (Col. 2:20-23) On the other hand, do discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness. (1 Tim 4:7)**
* **Set Spiritual Goals to grow closer to the Lord.**

**Nehemiah 9:39-10:39**

**Personal Application of God’s Word:**

1. **BEGINS WITH LEADERSHIP (9:38-10:27)**

* By setting the right example. White lies illustration (Mother and son – flying for half fare)
* By doing what they ask of others.
* By not being a hypocrite. Don’t preach one message and live differently.

1. **REQUIRES MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT (10:28-29)**

Are we under a curse? Yes & No. *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.”* (Gal. 3:13) But being under grace doesn’t negate the law of reaping and sowing (Gal. 6:7-8) God will severely discipline His children who disobey Him to teach us to fear sinning. (Hebrews 12:5-11)

* Find your group. (KINSMAN) Accountability and Fellowship
* Obey all of God’s word.
* Separate, don't sever (John 17:14-17)

If we separate too much, we will have no impact on the world!

1. **MUST EXTEND TO THE HOME (10:30)**

* Parents- PRAY, GUIDE, MONITOR!

Pray for our kids future spouses! Satan uses the temptation of mixed marriages (believer & unbeliever) to wreck and ruin the lives of the believer. 2 Cor. 6:14 says we shouldn’t be bound together with unbelievers!

TEENAGERS! If you consider marrying a non believer, it indicates thAT knowing and following Christ is not central to you.

An unbeliever will not encourage you to pursue God.

An unbeliever will not encourage the family to attend church.

An unbeliever values and will be at odds with your values.

1. **MUST EXTEND TO WORK (10:31)**

The people’s spiritual commitment led to some practical changes in how they did business.

* They would no longer buy from foreigners on the Sabbath.
* They trusted God in their business by letting the land lay fallow and forgiving debts every 7 years.
* Our business practices (work) should reflect our Christian commitment, even if it's costly or inconvenient.
* If we are honest in business, there is a cost, but God sees it all and will take care of us.

1. **MUST EXTEND TO CHURCH (10:32-39)**

* Support the needs of your church.
  + Realize He owns it all! We are the managers.
  + Give in proportion to God’s prospering (I Cor. 16:2)
  + Our giving should be planned & systematic (1 Cor. 16:2)
  + Give cheerfully. (I Cor. 9:7)
  + Demonstrate that God has first place in your heart. (Matt 6:21, 24)

**Summary: Apply God’s word *personally* and *specifically.***

Illustration of person who approached the preacher and said, “Great sermon! Everything you said applies to someone I know!”

Be specific and write down what you want to apply (ACTION PLAN)