

"I arrived in Jerusalem and learned of the wrong that Eliashib had done in turning over to him a room in the courts of The Temple of God. I was angry, really angry, and threw everything in the room out into the street, all of Tobiah's stuff. Then I ordered that they ceremonially cleanse the room. Only then did I put back the worship vessels of The Temple of God, along with the Grain-Offerings and the incense. ...

NEHEMIAH 13:7-22

... And then I learned that the Levites hadn't been given their regular food allotments. So the Levites and singers who led the services of worship had all left and gone back to their farms. I called the officials on the carpet, "Why has The Temple of God been abandoned?" I got everyone back again and put them back on their jobs so that all Judah was again bringing in the tithe of grain, wine, and oil to the storerooms. ...

NEHEMIAH 13:7-22

... I put Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a Levite named Pedaiah in charge of the storerooms. I made Hanan son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, their right-hand man. These men had a reputation for honesty and hard work. They were responsible for distributing the rations to their brothers. Remember me, O my God, for this. Don't ever forget the devoted work I have done for The Temple of God and its worship. ...

NEHEMIAH 13:7-22

... During those days, while back in Judah, I also noticed that people treading wine presses, brought in sacks of grain, and loaded up their donkeys on the Sabbath. They brought wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of stuff to sell on the Sabbath. So I spoke up and warned them about selling food on that day. Tyrians living there brought in fish and whatever else, selling it to Judeans — in Jerusalem, mind you!—on the Sabbath. ...

NEHEMIAH 13:7-22

... I confronted the leaders of Judah: 'What's going on here? This evil! Profaning the Sabbath! Isn't this exactly what your ancestors did? And because of it didn't God bring down on us and this city all this misery? And here you are adding to it—accumulating more wrath on Jerusalem by profaning the Sabbath.' ...

NEHEMIAH 13:7-22

... As the gates of Jerusalem were darkened by the shadows of the approaching Sabbath, I ordered the doors shut and not to be opened until the Sabbath was over. I placed some of my servants at the gates to make sure that nothing to be sold would get in on the Sabbath day. Traders and dealers in various goods camped outside the gates once or twice. But I took them to task. ...

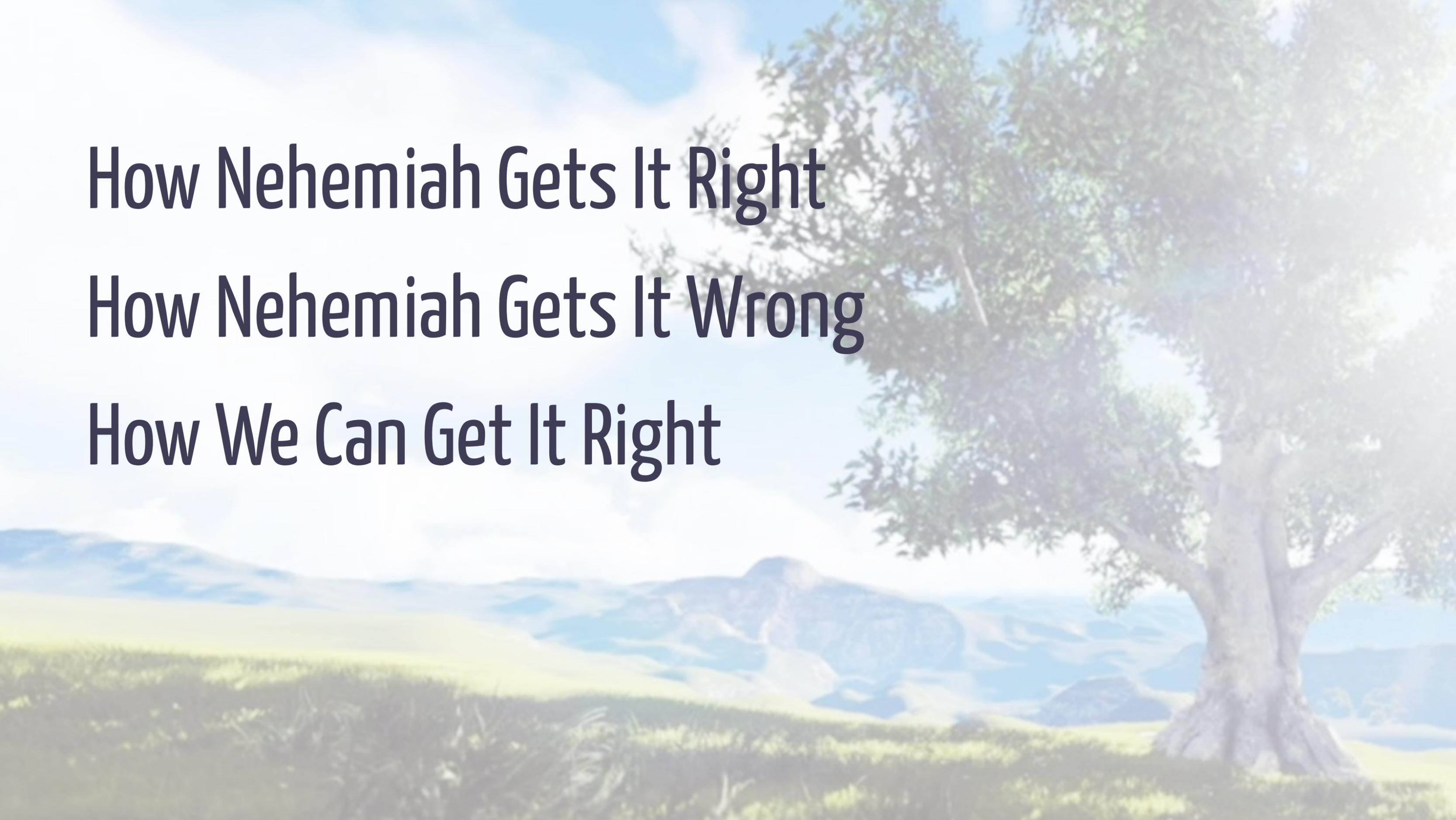
NEHEMIAH 13:7-22

... I said, 'You have no business camping out here by the wall. If I find you here again, I'll use force to drive you off.' And that did it; they didn't come back on the Sabbath. Then I directed the Levites to ceremonially cleanse themselves and take over as guards at the gates to keep the sanctity of the Sabbath day. Remember me also for this, my God. Treat me with mercy according to with mercy according to your great and steadfast love."

NEHEMIAH 13:7-22



UNSHAKABLE



How Nehemiah Gets It Right

How Nehemiah Gets It Wrong

How We Can Get It Right



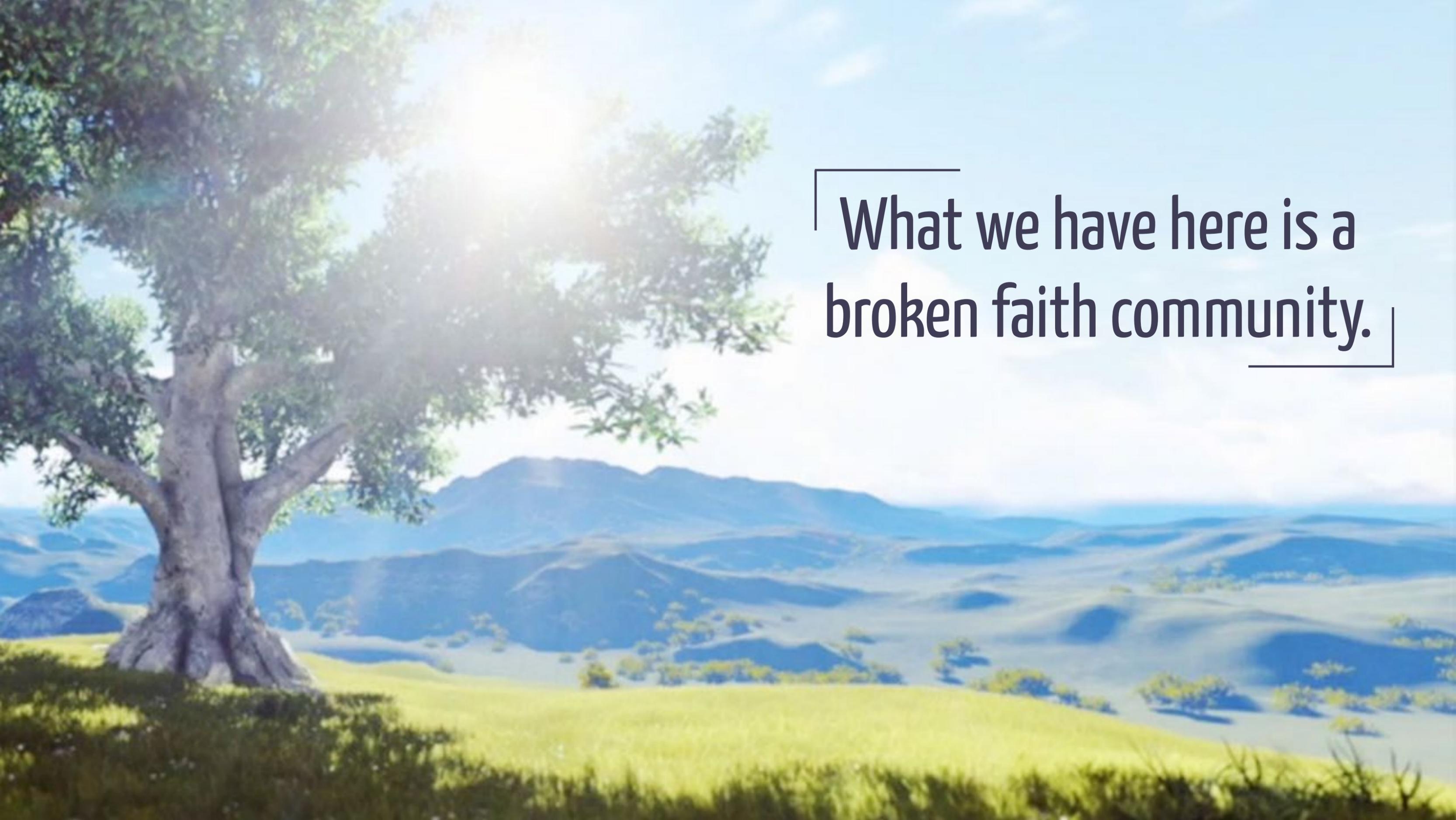
How Nehemiah Gets It Right

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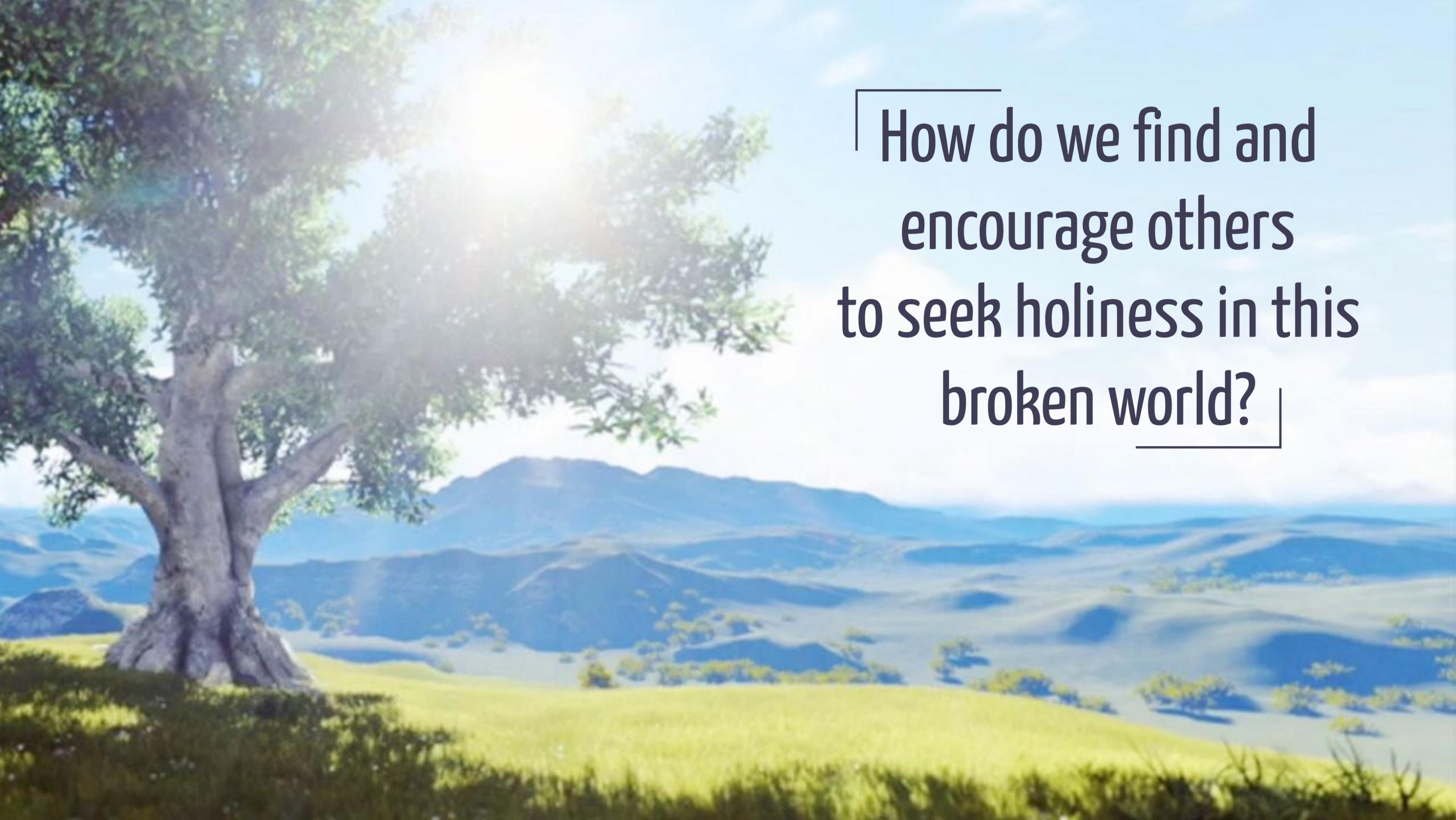
How We Can Get It Right

"I was angry, really angry, and threw everything in the room out into the street, all of Tobiah's stuff. Then I ordered that they ceremonially cleanse the room. Only then did I put back the worship vessels of The Temple of God, along with the Grain-Offerings and the incense... I ordered the doors shut and not to be opened until the Sabbath was over. I placed some of my servants at the gates to make sure that nothing to be sold would get in on the Sabbath day."

NEHEMIAH 13:7-9, 19-21

A scenic landscape featuring a large, leafy tree on the left side of the frame. The foreground is a lush green field. In the background, there are rolling hills and a range of mountains under a bright, clear sky. The sun is shining brightly, creating a lens flare effect. The text "What we have here is a broken faith community." is overlaid on the right side of the image, enclosed in a thin black border.

**What we have here is a
broken faith community.**



How do we find and encourage others to seek holiness in this broken world?

"A priest is a priest no matter where she happens to be. Her job is to recognize the holy in things and hold them up to God. Her job is to speak in a way that helps other people recognize the holiness of things, too."

Barbara Brown Taylor

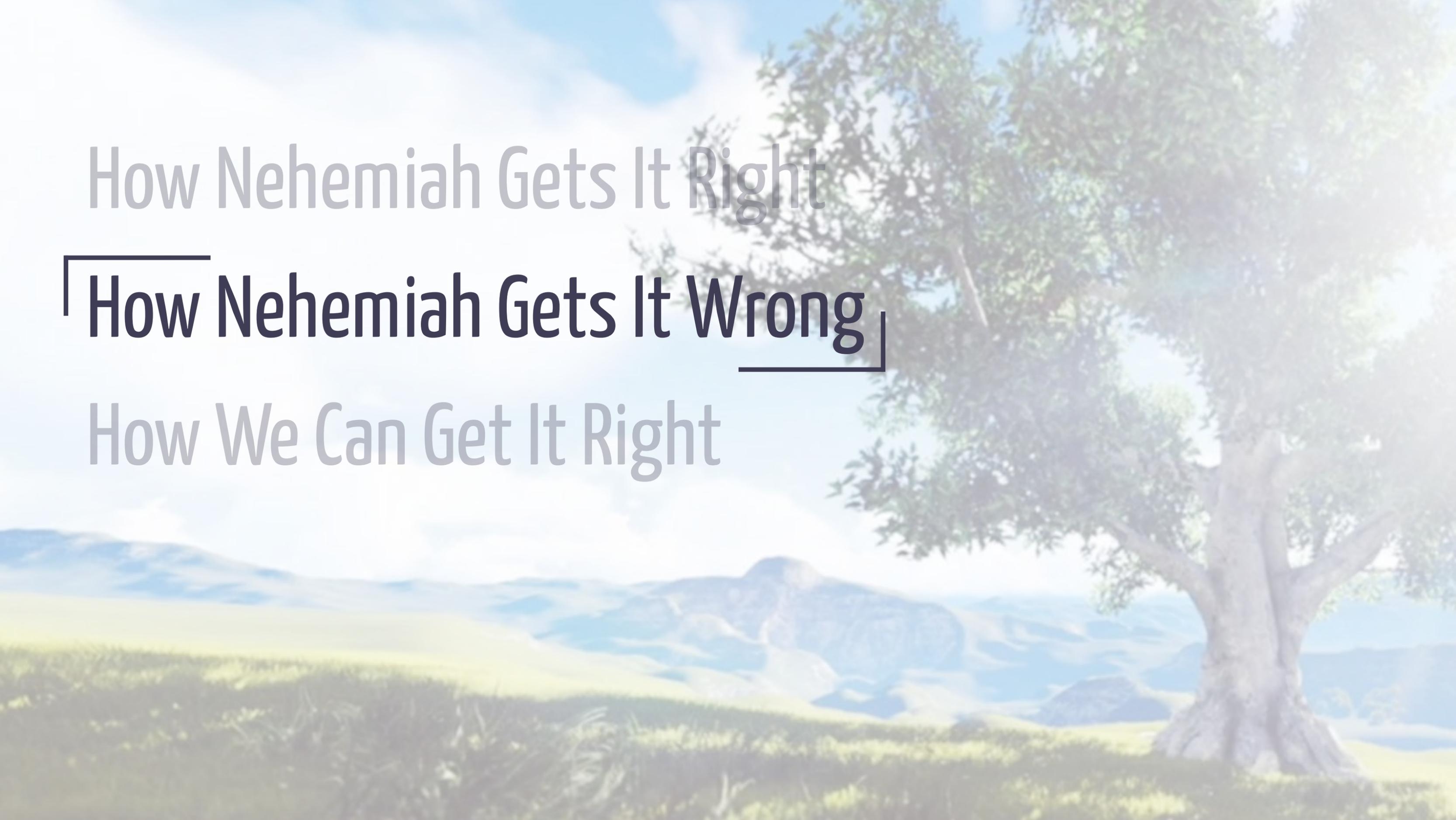
"As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 PETER 2:9

How Nehemiah Gets It Right

How Nehemiah Gets It Wrong

How We Can Get It Right



"I confronted the leaders of Judah: "What's going on here? This evil! Profaning the Sabbath! Isn't this exactly what your ancestors did? And because of it didn't God bring down on us and this city all this misery? And here you are adding to it—accumulating more wrath on Jerusalem by profaning the Sabbath."

NEHEMIAH 13:17-18

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ...

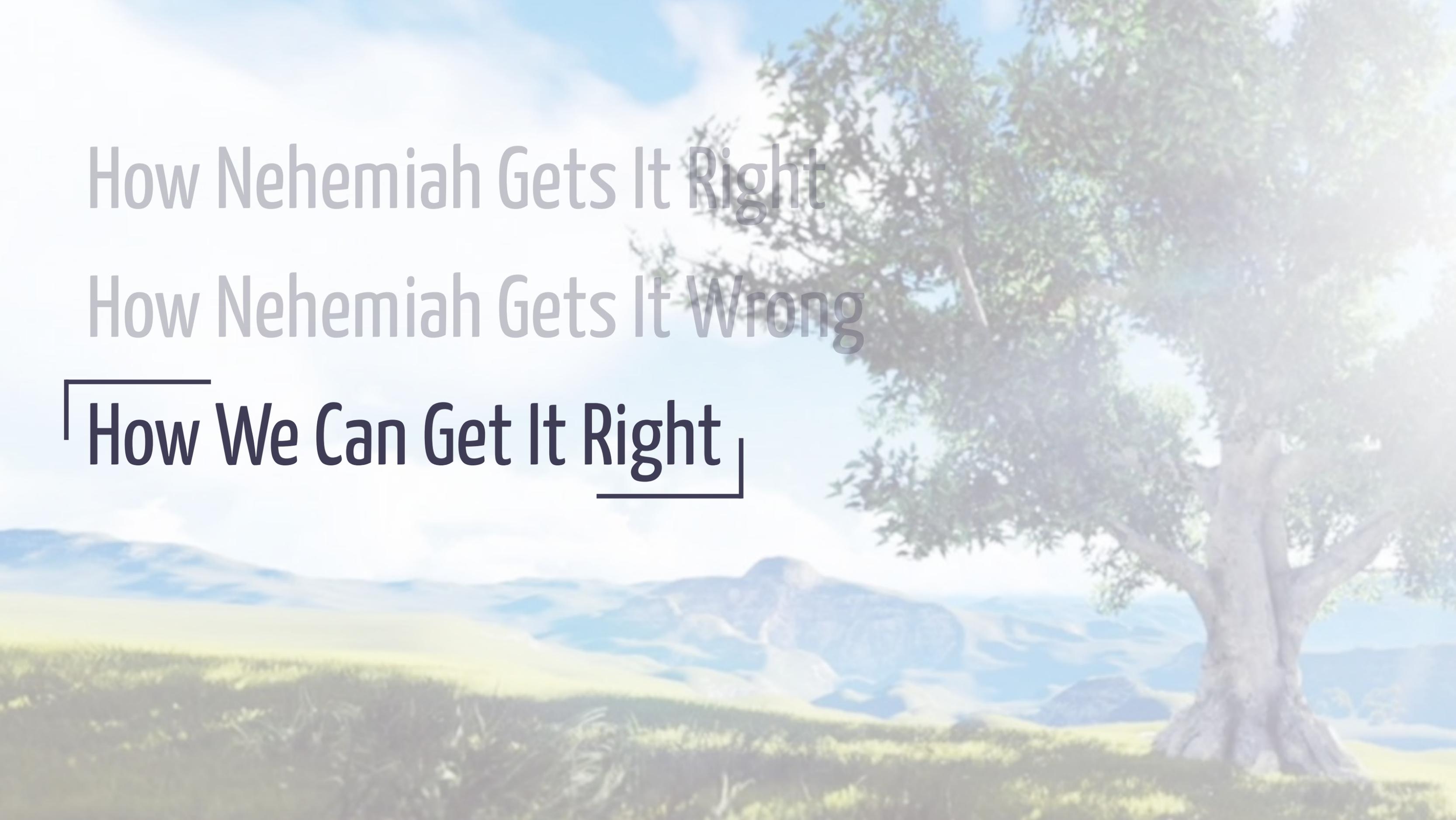
MATTHEW 5:38-45

... ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:38-45



How Nehemiah Gets It Right

How Nehemiah Gets It Wrong

How We Can Get It Right

¹⁴ "Remember me, O my God, for this. Don't ever forget the devoted work I have done for The Temple of God and its worship."

²² "Remember me also for this, my God. Treat me with mercy according to with mercy according to your great and steadfast love."

³¹ "Remember me, O my God, for good."

NEHEMIAH 13:14, 22, 31

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.

MATTHEW 21:12-14

How can holiness bring healing in and through our faith community?

- ▶ Embracing our vulnerability.

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- ▶ Embracing our vulnerability.
- ▶ Seeking the gospel in all things.

How can holiness bring healing in and through our faith community?

- ▶ Embracing our vulnerability.
- ▶ Seeking the gospel in all things.
- ▶ Lifting one another.



UNSHAKABLE