

# Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 9 26-31



Order my steps by your word,  
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.  
Psalm 119:133

## **Praising:**

Plenteous grace with thee is  
found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound:  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art,  
freely let me take of thee,  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.

## **Reading:**

Nehemiah 9:26-31  
Israel ignores God then looks for  
him again

A clear pattern emerges: Israel  
rebels against the Lord and  
ignores his will for their lives. God  
duly leaves them to face the  
consequences of the choices  
they have made. However, when  
trouble comes and the people cry  
to God for help, God hears and

responds. It is a sequence which  
keeps repeating itself. The people  
may ignore God's  
commandments because they  
feel them to be burdensome and  
overbearing. Stubbornness and  
wilfulness are also contributing  
factors. As Nehemiah sees it,  
Israel is ignoring the guidelines  
God has carefully put in place  
that his people may live life to its  
fullest and richest. Yet in the end,  
where God's people continually  
prove faithless, God remains  
gracious and merciful. When they  
call to God in desperation, it is  
simply not in God's nature to  
leave his children to their own  
self-ruin.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord we know we're just the  
same

- grateful for your blessings one  
minute, resenting your  
commandments the next
- insisting on what we want one  
minute, begging you to deliver  
us from it the next
- praising you for your mercy  
one minute, ignoring you all  
over again the next

Father: I go my own way and the  
result is always disaster, always  
frustration, always a feeling that  
your plan was better. In those  
moments when I'm choosing,  
please strengthen me. Amen

## **Doing:**