

A high-angle photograph of a person's legs and feet standing on a white arrow painted on a paved surface. The person is wearing blue jeans and brown shoes. The arrow points downwards towards the bottom of the frame. The pavement is a mix of grey and brown tones, suggesting a mix of asphalt and concrete or perhaps just weathered asphalt. The lighting is bright, casting a shadow of the person's legs onto the pavement to the left.

Back to

Square One

Nehemiah 13





# Outline:

1. Sin leaves an ugly trail
2. Compromising leads to a loss in identity
3. Sin must be dealt with

A high-angle photograph of a person's legs and feet standing on a white arrow painted on asphalt. The person is wearing blue jeans and brown shoes. The arrow points downwards, and the asphalt surface shows some wear and discoloration.

1.

Sin leaves an  
ugly trail



<sup>4</sup> Before this had happened, Eliashib the priest, who had been appointed as supervisor of the storerooms of the Temple of our God and who was **also a relative of Tobiah**, <sup>5</sup> had converted a large storage room and **placed it at Tobiah's disposal**. The room had previously been used for storing the grain offerings, the frankincense, various articles for the Temple, and the tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil (which were prescribed for the Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers), as well as the offerings for the priests.

*Nehemiah 13*



By moving into the temple,  
Tobiah saw himself as  
important  
as God.







Unconfessed sin  
leads to **more** sin  
and bigger  
mistakes.

‘If we habitually excuse smaller sins, we shouldn't be surprised to find ourselves increasingly entangled in larger ones.’


Jen Wilkin





<sup>10</sup> I also discovered that the Levites had not been given their prescribed portions of food, so they and the singers who were to conduct the worship services had all returned to work their fields. <sup>11</sup> I immediately confronted the leaders and demanded, **“Why has the Temple of God been neglected?”** Then I called all the Levites back again and restored them to their proper duties.

*Nehemiah 13*



Because Israel forsook their offerings  
and tithes, the Levites  
were forced to flee to their fields.



Unconfessed  
sin leaves an  
ugly trail



Is there any  
unconfessed  
sin in our  
lives?





<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

*1 Corinthians 3*

A habit of unconfessed  
sin equates to a  
**compromise** on God's  
holy standards.







# Outline:

1. Sin leaves an ugly trail
2. **Compromising leads to a loss in identity**
3. Sin must be dealt with

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw men of Judah treading out their winepresses on the Sabbath. They were also bringing in grain, loading it on donkeys, and bringing their wine, grapes, figs, and all sorts of produce to Jerusalem **to sell on the Sabbath**. So I rebuked them for selling their produce on that day. <sup>16</sup> Some men from Tyre, who lived in Jerusalem, were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise. They **were selling it on the Sabbath** to the people of Judah—and in Jerusalem at that!



A high-angle photograph of a person standing on a large white arrow painted on a paved surface. The person is wearing blue jeans and brown shoes. The arrow points downwards, towards the bottom of the frame. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, with the word 'lowering' in a larger, bold font.

Compromising is a  
**lowering**  
of God's standards

<sup>22</sup> Then I commanded the Levites to **purify** themselves and to guard the gates in order to preserve the holiness of the Sabbath.

The Levites were unclean!

<sup>23</sup> About the same time I realized that some of the men of Judah had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. <sup>24</sup> Furthermore, half their children spoke the language of Ashdod or of some other people and **could not speak the language of Judah at all.**



Nehemiah wasn't against ethnicity.

He was against those who compromised their values, their identity and worship to God.

Compromising doesn't  
happen **overnight**

M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28				



‘One compromise here, another there and soon enough the so-called Christian and the man in the world look the same.’

A.W Tozer



how have we lowered  
God's standards and  
replaced His with ours?





Be familiar with God's  
standards





# Outline:

1. Sin leaves an ugly trail
2. Compromising leads to a loss in identity
3. Sin must be dealt with



<sup>8</sup> I became very upset and threw all of Tobiah's belongings out of the room. <sup>9</sup> Then I demanded that the rooms be purified, and I brought back the articles for God's Temple, the grain offerings, and the frankincense.

<sup>11</sup> I immediately confronted the leaders and demanded, "Why has the Temple of God been neglected?" Then I called all the Levites back again and restored them to their proper duties.



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a tree trunk's cross-section. It shows concentric growth rings and a prominent, dark, jagged crack that runs from the center towards the bottom right. The wood has a warm, golden-brown hue.

3.

Sin must be dealt  
with

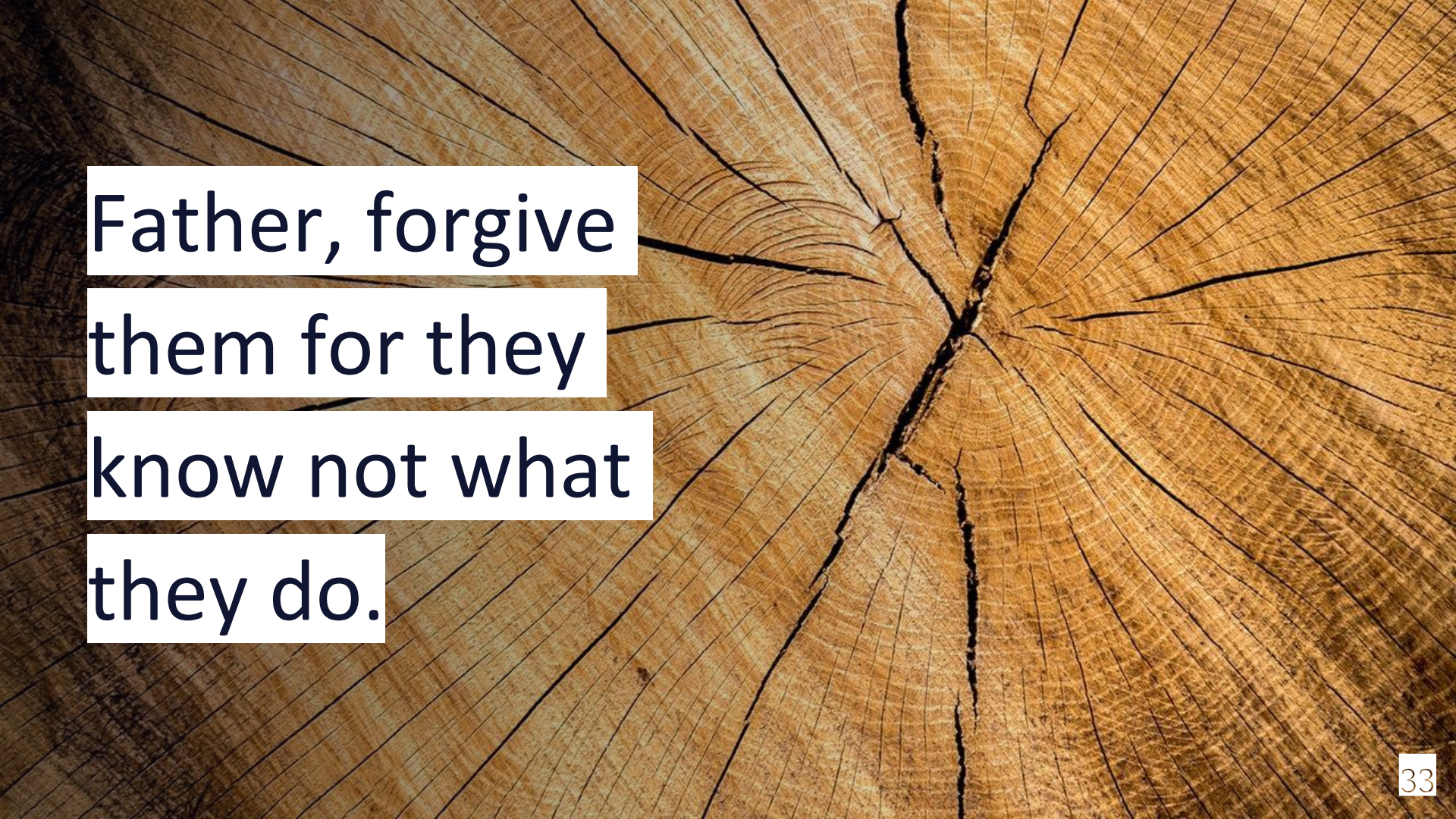


We need to throw out what is unclean in our hearts, cut ties with things that lead us astray and allow God to **cleanse** us from within.

1. Living in repentance, living in God's rule is a journey of wrestling, a journey of obedience.

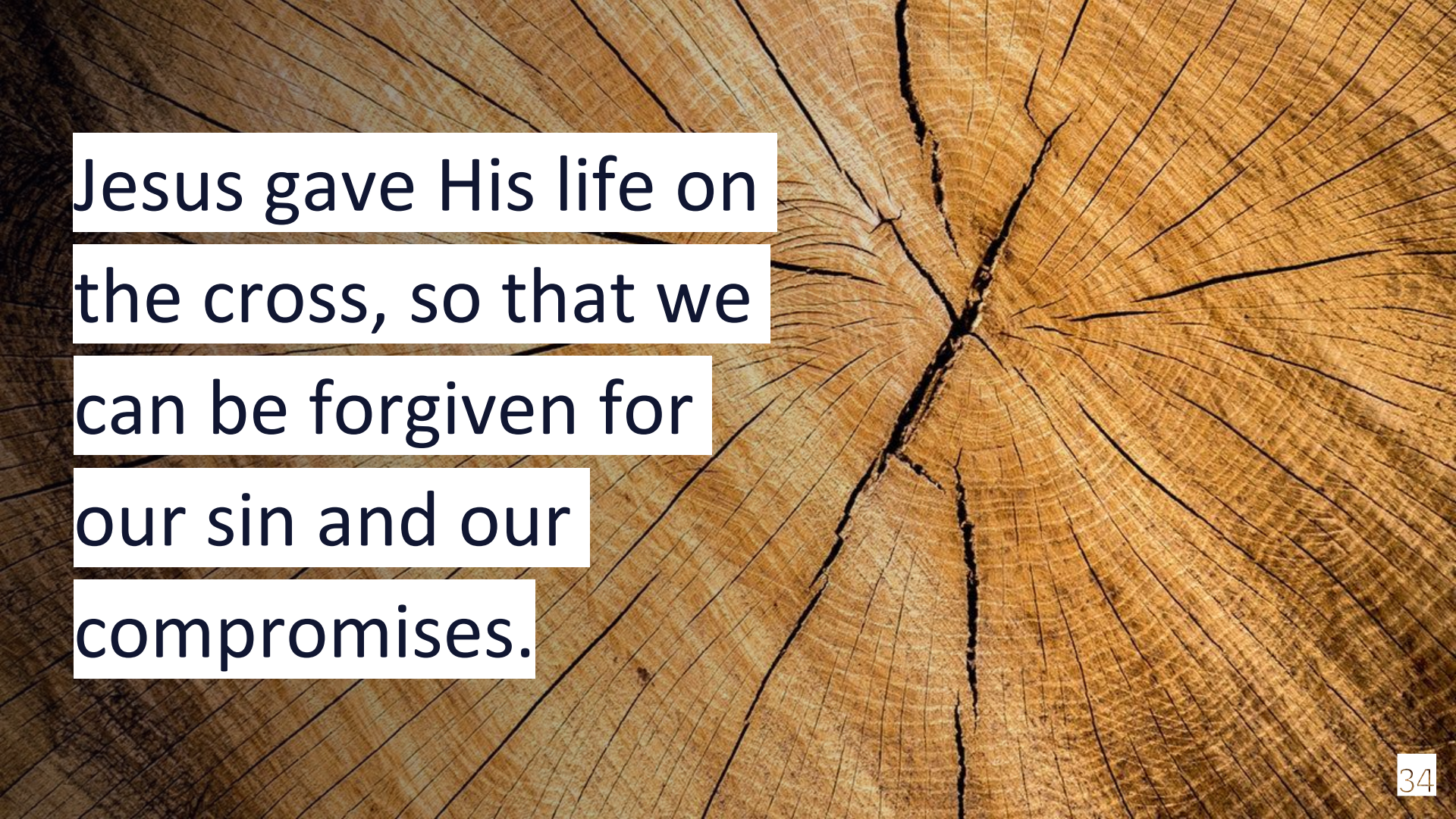
1. Living in repentance, living in God's rule is a journey of wrestling, a journey of obedience.
2. Be careful of what we allow into our lives, of what we tolerate.





Father, forgive  
them for they  
know not what  
they do.





Jesus gave His life on  
the cross, so that we  
can be forgiven for  
our sin and our  
compromises.