

Trouble Within the Ranks Nehemiah 5:1-13



Call to the Word Nehemiah 5:1-13



There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards. Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards."

Neh 5:4-5



And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So I called a great assembly against them.

Neh 5:6-7



And I said to them, "According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?" Then they were silenced and found nothing to say.

Neh 5:8



Then I said, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?

Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Neh 5:9 & 19

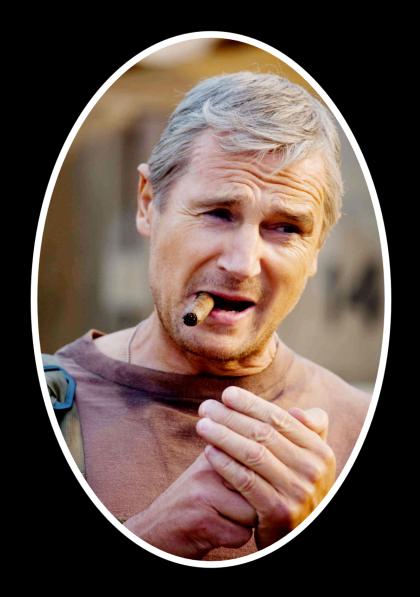


Introduction Nehemiah 5:1-13



intro

"I love it when a plan comes together!"





 "The key to solving conflict is found in affirming God's will. When we do this, our desires become God's desires, and then His power becomes our power." (Sweeting)

intro



The Outcry of the People Nehemiah 5:1-5



"...there was a great outcry of the people..."

Neh 3:5; 6:17

The Outcry

Neh 5:1-5

"One explanation, beyond just the laziness of the rich, is that these nobles had been pledged to Tobiah for personal gain." (MacArthur)



When God's people fight one another they certainly are neither fighting the real enemy nor getting God's work done.



1. Neglected providing for themselves

The Outcry



1. Neglected providing for themselves

2. They were mortgaged to the hilt.



- 1. They neglected providing for themselves
- 2. They were mortgaged to the hilt.
- 3. The government kept taxing them.



- 1. They neglected providing for themselves
- 2. They were mortgaged to the hilt.
- 3. The government kept taxing them.
- 4. They were selling their children into slavery.



The Outrage of Nehemiah Nehemiah 5:6-9



The Outrage

Neh 5:6-9

V6: And I became very angry: verb meaning to burn, to be kindled, to glow – "got hot"

V7: after serious thought: He thought before he spoke.



The Outrage

Neh 5:6-9

"Self-control is a virtue (a) leader cannot afford to be without... You need to have a quiet place where you can lay all the emotions of your soul before God. Nobody hears but God." (Swindoll)



Psa 4:4

Eph 4:26-27

Pro 14:29

The Outrage

Neh 5:6-9



The Outrage

Neh 5:6-9

"We're God's people now. We belong to him—rescued out of the clutches of sin, guilt, and condemnation, and adopted into his family. God saved us for the purpose for making us human temples, inhabited by his Spirit." (Cymbala)



1. Anger over their greed

The Outrage

Neh 5:6-9

Exo 22:25 "If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest



2. Anger over their forcing children into slavery (v8).

The Outrage

3. Anger over loss of testimony (v9).

Neh 5:6-9



The Outcome of the Situation Nehemiah 5:10 -13



Repentance & Restoration

The Outcome

If there's ever a time to take God seriously, it's when we make a promise to Him.



reflection



Correcting any problem begins by facing it head-on.

reflection



Correcting any problem begins by facing it head-on.

reflection

Before Correcting any problem – Consider Yourself.

Gal 6:1



Correcting any problem begins by facing it head-on.

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reflection

Before correcting any problem – correct yourself.

Matt 7:4-5



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