

NEHEMIAH

Chapter 5

After having faced the threats of the enemy outside the wall, in Chapter 5 Nehemiah now faces trouble from within as the Jewish people come forward with complaints against one another. The mistreating of one another gives opportunity for the devil to wreak havoc among us. It is often conflict within that gives a foothold to the devil and brings a fellowship of believers to a place where they are no longer effective in the work of the Lord. Nehemiah addressed this problem with godly wisdom, another example we can follow from his attitudes and actions.

As you begin your study this week, ask the Lord to open your eyes to the instruction He has for you from His Word.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is Matthew 7:12.

*"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them,
for this is the Law and the Prophets."*

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

Read Nehemiah 5:1- 6.

1. There is trouble inside the wall. Who was “*the great outcry*” against?

2. In the next four verses we hear the grievances from the people. Put the complaint from each verse below in your own words.
 - a. Nehemiah 5:2

 - b. Nehemiah 5:3

 - c. Nehemiah 5:4

 - d. Nehemiah 5:5

3. When we realize that the men putting these burdens of mortgages and slavery on them were fellow Jews it seems unbelievable, and yet it is true. What causes people to take advantage of their own brethren like this?

4. How could Satan try to use this situation to stop the rebuilding of the wall?

5. In Nehemiah 5:6, what was Nehemiah's reaction to these complaints?

a. Read Matthew 21:12-13 and share what you find about righteous anger.

b. What does Ephesians 4:26 tell us about anger?

Read Nehemiah 5:7-10.

1. In Nehemiah 5:7 we read of Nehemiah's response.

a. Write the first three words below.

b. How do you see these words reflecting the command of Psalm 4:4?

c. Apply James 1:19 to Nehemiah's response. What do you see?

2. What charge did Nehemiah make against them in Nehemiah 5:7?

a. Define *usury*.

b. What does Exodus 22:25 say about this?

c. What more do you find in Leviticus 25:35-37?

3. Jump ahead to Nehemiah 5:10. In this verse Nehemiah says that he is lending money and grain.

a. How can you lend money without usury?

b. Write out the words of Nehemiah's plea at the end of this verse.

4. In Nehemiah 5:8 he addressed the charge that they were causing the selling of brethren into slavery.

a. What comparison does he make in reference to redeeming Jews in this verse?

b. According to Leviticus 25:42, what does God say about this?

5. What does Jesus want our attitude to be toward others? Read Luke 6:30-35 and write what you find about this here.

6. In Nehemiah 5:8 we read of what happened when the crowd heard Nehemiah's charges.

a. What was their reaction?

b. Why do you think this was their reaction?

Read Nehemiah 5:9.

1. In Nehemiah 5:9, how did he say they should walk?

a. What does this mean to you?

b. What does Proverbs 8:13 have to say about the fear of the Lord?

2. We are told to walk in the fear of the Lord throughout scripture. Read the following verses from Proverbs and share what you find.

a. Proverbs 1:7

b. Proverbs 14:26-27

c. Proverbs 19:23

3. From Psalm 34:11, how can we learn to walk in the fear of the Lord?

4. How would walking in the *fear of the Lord* keep strife among the brethren from happening both then and now?

5. Before we leave Nehemiah 5:9 there is one more thing to note. Read the verse again below and notice the underlined section.

“Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?”

a. Why does this verse say we should walk in the fear of the Lord?

b. Define *reproach*.

c. When one is not walking in the fear of the Lord, what impression does that behavior give those watching, both then and now?

d. Write what Jesus said in John 13:35 about the impression we want to give to those watching.

Read Nehemiah 5:11-13.

1. What did Nehemiah require of the people in verse 11?

2. What did the people say they would do in Nehemiah 5:12?

3. In Nehemiah 5:12-13 he made it very clear how serious he was about the people following through on their promise.
 - a. What did he do in verse 12?

 - b. What did he do and say in verse 13?

4. At the end of Nehemiah 5:13 it says that “*all the assembly said, ‘Amen!’*” and praised the Lord. The words they said were good, but the next sentence is essential because it tells us what they did! Write the last sentence of verse 13 below.

It is often easy to say the right thing and promise to do the right thing, but unless our actions follow those words it does no good.

Read Nehemiah 5:14-19.

As we have studied these first 5 Chapters of Nehemiah, his life has been lived as an example for us to follow. In Nehemiah 5:14-19 we read of how he walked out everything he asked of the people and more!

1. In Nehemiah 5:14-15 we can see the generosity of Nehemiah as he shares the details of how he did not even take the provisions that were due the governor. Now read Nehemiah 5:15 to see what motivated his actions.
 - a. Why did Nehemiah not do as the previous governors had done?

 - b. Underline these words in your Bible as a reminder of how they can be the guideline for all that we do. Make note of how Nehemiah is walking in the way he told the others to walk in Nehemiah 5:9.

2. At the end of verse 18 we read again that Nehemiah did not do what he could have done in demanding the governor's provision. What is his reason here?

3. We would do well to follow Nehemiah's example of putting the needs of others above his own rights. This principal of putting others first is taught throughout scripture. Share a verse below that speaks to you about this.

In closing...

1. Nehemiah obviously let the fear of the Lord govern his choices and his attitudes. In what ways should the fear of the Lord direct our walk?

2. Think about the good example we saw in Nehemiah's life this week. We all want to live in such a way that others will see the example of Christ in our lives. Ask the Lord to show you any area where He wants to work in your life that you might be a godly example.

Memory Verse

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Matthew 7:12