



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Week 3

Nehemiah 5-6

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Day 1- Nehemiah 5- 6

Read Nehemiah 5-6 in your Bible.

- Pray as you read, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding, praise, confession, thanksgiving, and petition in light of the truth you are reading.
- Underline/highlight key words, phrases, and verses that stand out to you.

Day 2- Nehemiah 5:1-5

1. According to verse 1, who is being wronged and who is wronging them?

Digging Deeper: Look up Deuteronomy 23:19-20. What was God's law concerning how God's people were to interact with each other regarding money? What was the benefit of this?

2. With all the time and money the building of the wall required, problems that had been simmering a long time began to surface. What were the problems the people were facing?

Digging Deeper: Read 1 John 3:11-18 and 4:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:7-8. How are we instructed to treat fellow believers?

Scholar's Note: The Jewish people of wealth are primarily concerned with themselves here. They are not thinking about the effect their financial dealings have on the ability of the poor to feed themselves, care for their children, or devote themselves to the work on the wall. – James M. Hamilton Jr.



Most of us reading this enjoy a certain amount of wealth. We live in warm houses, are not worried about where our next meal is coming from, have more clothes than we probably need and take a vacation every once in a while. We should not feel guilty about this. We have these things because God in his sovereignty has chosen to bless us in this way. (1 Samuel 2:7)

The way we deal with the money God has given us says a lot about us and what we believe. In Psalm 24:1 David reminds us that the earth and everything in it belong to the LORD. Our heavenly Father has entrusted us with everything we have. What kind of steward are you with the money God has given you? Reflect on the following questions:

- How does the way you deal with money reflect on God?
- What does it say about what you truly value?
- Does the way you give reflect God's generosity to you?
- Do you spend your money to advance the kingdom of God?
- Do you indulge yourself at the expense of others?

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19 we find Paul's instructions for those who have been blessed with money:

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Write all the principles you find in this passage about having money.

Day 3- Nehemiah 5:6-19

3. What was Nehemiah's response in verse 6?

Scholar's Note: In verse 7, "I took counsel with myself" carries the meaning *my heart was ruled* or *I mastered my feelings*.

For Discussion: Why would this situation make Nehemiah so very angry?

4. In verse 9, Nehemiah calls the transgressors to walk in the fear of God and prevent the taunts of foreign enemies. What does fearing God have to do with the way the Jews were treating their fellow Jews? How would their treatment of their fellow Jew bring reproach from foreign enemies?
5. What does the silence of the oppressors in verse 8, and their acceptance of Nehemiah's directive in verses 11 and 12, and their obedience in 13b say about their hearts?
6. From the information in verses 14-19, how was Nehemiah different than previous governors? What was the main reason for this difference? What were some other reasons?



When Nehemiah asked the Jews who were oppressing their brothers, “Shouldn’t you be walking in the fear of our God?” it was not a case of “do as I say not as I do”. In verses 14-19, we see Nehemiah sacrificing for his brothers because of the fear of God. The motivating influence in Nehemiah’s life was the fear of God. It motivated him to love God’s people and lay down his own rights for them.

Nehemiah points us to Jesus who did not cling to the advantages of his status as God but set aside his rights and sacrificed himself for us. We will fear God when we recognize who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus. In John Newton’s hymn *Amazing Grace* he puts it this way- “Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.” The more we grow to truly understand the grace God has shown us through Jesus and the more we are satisfied with all that God is for us through Jesus, the more we will walk in the fear of God, loving Him and loving our brothers and sisters in Christ. John Piper explains this connection, “If the heart is satisfied with all that God is for us in Jesus, the power of sin to lure us away from the will of Christ is broken, and the beauty of God’s path of love is compelling.”

For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Spend time in prayer now:

Thanking Jesus for not clinging to his rights as God, but giving them up so that you could have the right of Sonship.

Confess the ways you demand your rights and live for yourself.

Ask God to help you fear and treasure him and trust that all that God has for us in Jesus is all that we need and by believing this enable you to lay down your life for others.

7. In verse 19, why would Nehemiah ask God to remember for his good all that he had done for this people? See Matthew 16:27 for help.

Picture and Ponder: “[Nehemiah] is looking to the great accounting, when breathtaking pleasures and heart-filling joys will be known by those who lived for God rather than for themselves. Here we see the source of Nehemiah’s selflessness. Nehemiah wants to serve God and God’s people because he believes that living by faith in what he cannot see will be more rewarding than living for what he can see in this life.” –James M. Hamilton

Day 4- Nehemiah 6:1-9

8. What progress had been made and what work was left to be done according to Nehemiah in verse 1?

9. Why did Nehemiah call the rebuilding of a torn down wall, in a small city, on the outskirts of a conquering empire “a great work”, especially compared to the prestigious work he had been doing for the king of Persia?



Nehemiah recognized the distraction that was Sanballat and Geshem, for what they were- enemies of God’s work. He remained steadfast in his calling because he feared God and was working for His glory.

- What work has God called you to do?

- What work has God called all Christians to do?

- What things constantly distract you and draw you away from this work?

Spend some time praying for perseverance and steadfastness in the work God has called you to. Ask Him to help you identify the distractions that are pulling you away from the important things He has for you to do.

10. How did Nehemiah persevere against his enemies according to verse 4?

11. According to verse 9, what were Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem trying to do?

12. How did Nehemiah characteristically respond in verse 9, to great opposition?

-In light of the false accusations Nehemiah was facing what is surprising about his prayer?

-Do you usually pray for God to change your circumstances or for strength to persevere?

Day 5- Nehemiah 6:10-19

13. How did Nehemiah know that God had not sent this “prophet” Shemaiah (vs 10-14)? What did Shemaiah tell Nehemiah to do that was strictly forbidden? See Numbers 18:7 for help.

-What did Nehemiah fear more than his enemies? (V.11)

-How would knowledge of God’s Word help you discern whether someone’s advice or suggestions are good or bad?

14. How did the completion of the wall glorify God according to verse 16?

15. From our study so far, list all the ways you have seen God working to help Nehemiah complete the wall.

16. Even though the wall is completed, what is Nehemiah still dealing with in verses 17-19?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?