Nehemiah 5 – Real Life Happens

Study Guide – Reference Verses

The righteous cry out

Exodus 3:7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

Money

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:24 (ESV) "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Usury

Deuteronomy 23:19-20 "You shall not charge interest to your brother—interest on money *or* food *or* anything that is lent out at interest. To a foreigner you may charge interest, but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that the Lord your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess.

Leviticus 25:35-38 35 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you. You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

Anger

Exodus 32:10-11 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

John 2:13-14 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the problem in verses 1-5? How hard would it be to continue the work on the wall of this situation is not resolved?

How does Nehemiah respond:

2. What is his first response (verse 6)? Was that right?
3. What is the second thing he does? Why was that wise – what happens if we don't do that (verse 7)?
4. What is the third thing he did (verse 7)? Why is this a mark of Nehemiah's godly leadership?
5. How do the nobles and rulers respond (verse 10)? What does this teach us about how we are to respond when we are in the wrong?

Notes: