

Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. —Nehemiah 5:1 ESV

01.tif

Problem: Division

Issue: Money

- Lack of Food
- Loaded With Debt
- Leveraged by Brothers
- Living in Bondage

02.tif

**What Did Nehemiah Do and
What Can We Learn?**

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What Did Nehemiah Do? . . .

Rebuked Their Disobedience

04.tif

⁶I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. ⁷I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them ⁸and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!"

05.tif

They were silent and could not find a word to say. ⁹So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?"

—Nehemiah 5:6-9 ESV

06.tif

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

—Deuteronomy 10:12 ESV

07.tif

³⁵“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. ³⁶Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. ³⁷You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.” —Leviticus 25:35-37 ESV

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⁴²For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. —Leviticus 25:42 ESV

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“Israel was charged to create a culture of social justice for the poor and vulnerable because it was the way the nation could reveal God’s glory and character in the world.”

—Timothy Keller

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He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8 ESV

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What Can We Learn? . . .

Life Principle: Disobedience Results in Bondage

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You are in financial bondage when you...

1. charge daily expenditures because of a lack of funds.
2. must put off paying a bill until next month because you can't pay it this month.
3. borrow to pay fixed expenses (i.e., mortgage, light bill, taxes)
4. become unaware of how much you owe.
5. have creditors calling you and writing you about past-due bills.

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You are in financial bondage when you...

6. take from savings accounts to pay current bills.
7. make new loans to pay off old loans.
8. and your spouse argue about finances.
9. consider being dishonest, unscrupulous, or unethical about your finances.
10. find it difficult to return God's tithe to God's house on God's day.

—Jack Graham, *You Can Make a Difference*

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⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, "How have we robbed you?" In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

15.tif

¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. —Malachi 3:8-10 ESV

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Three kinds of people at church:

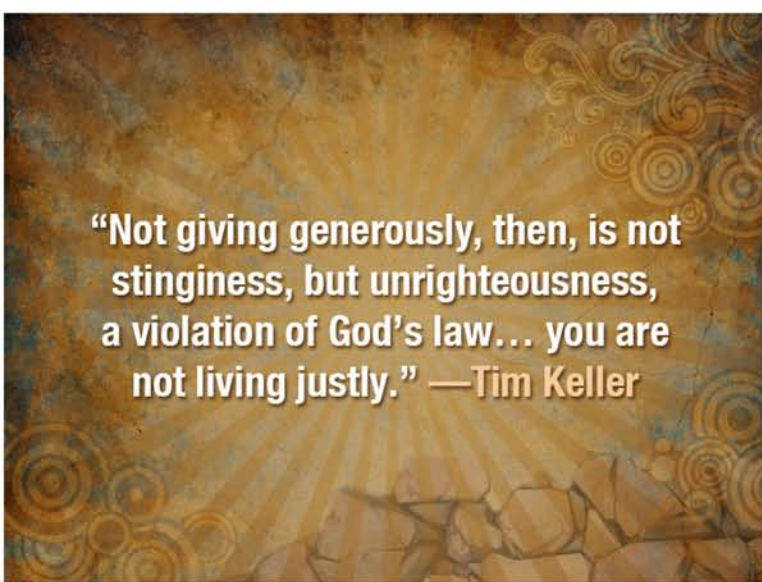
- Tithers
- Tippers
- Teetotalers

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"Any Christian who would let a Jew do more under the law is a disgrace to grace."

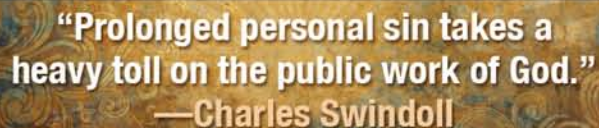
—Adrian Rogers

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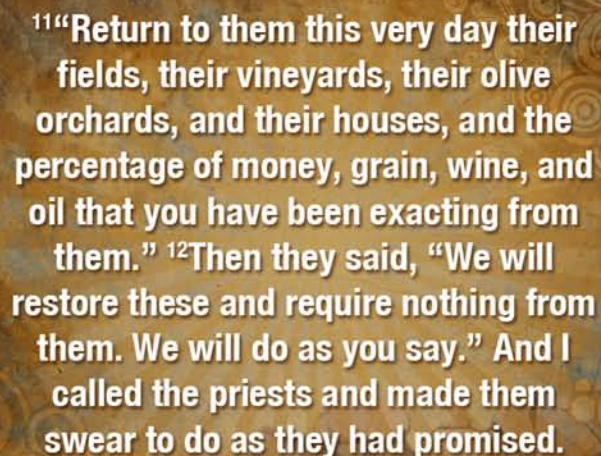
“Not giving generously, then, is not stinginess, but unrighteousness, a violation of God’s law... you are not living justly.” —Tim Keller

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**“Prolonged personal sin takes a heavy toll on the public work of God.”
—Charles Swindoll**

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¹¹“Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.” ¹²Then they said, “We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say.” And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised.

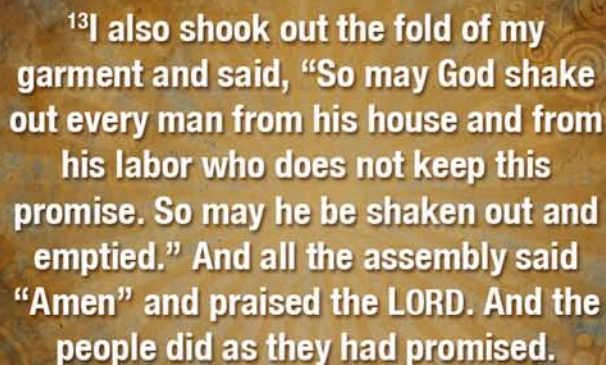
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What Did Nehemiah Do? . . .

Recalled God’s Standard of Obedience

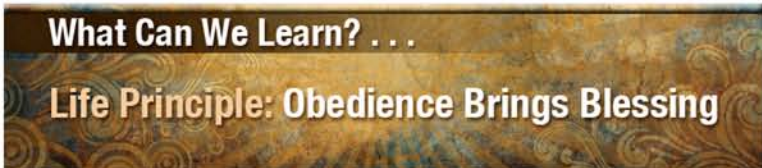
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¹³I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, “So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied.” And all the assembly said “Amen” and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

—Nehemiah 5:11-13 ESV

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What Can We Learn? . . .

Life Principle: Obedience Brings Blessing

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¹Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. —1 Corinthians 16:1-2 ESV

25a.tif

⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also... ⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 Corinthians 8:7; 9:6-7 ESV

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But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. —Matthew 6:33 ESV

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What Did Nehemiah Do? . . .

Reflected on the Joy of Giving


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¹⁷Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. ¹⁸Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. —Nehemiah 5:17-18 ESV

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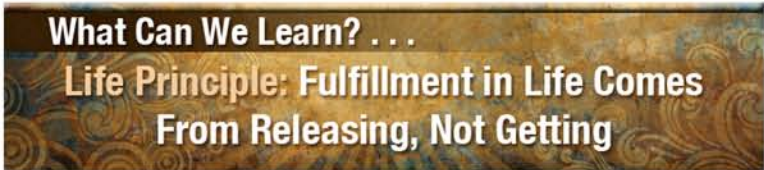
It is more blessed to give than to receive. —Acts 20:35b ESV

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The greatest statement on who you are is
not what you make, but what you give.

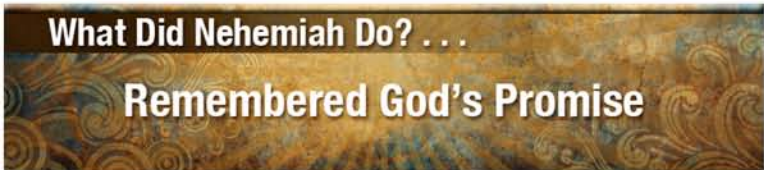
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What Can We Learn? . . .

Life Principle: Fulfillment in Life Comes
From Releasing, Not Getting

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What Did Nehemiah Do? . . .

Remembered God's Promise


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Remember for my good, O my God,
all that I have done for this people.

—Nehemiah 5:19 ESV

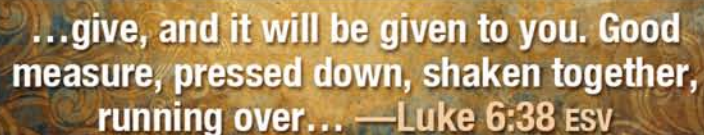
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What Can We Learn? . . .

Life Principle: You Can't Outgive God

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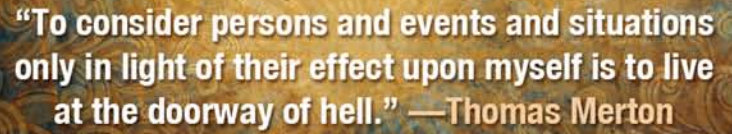
...give, and it will be given to you. Good
measure, pressed down, shaken together,
running over... —Luke 6:38 ESV

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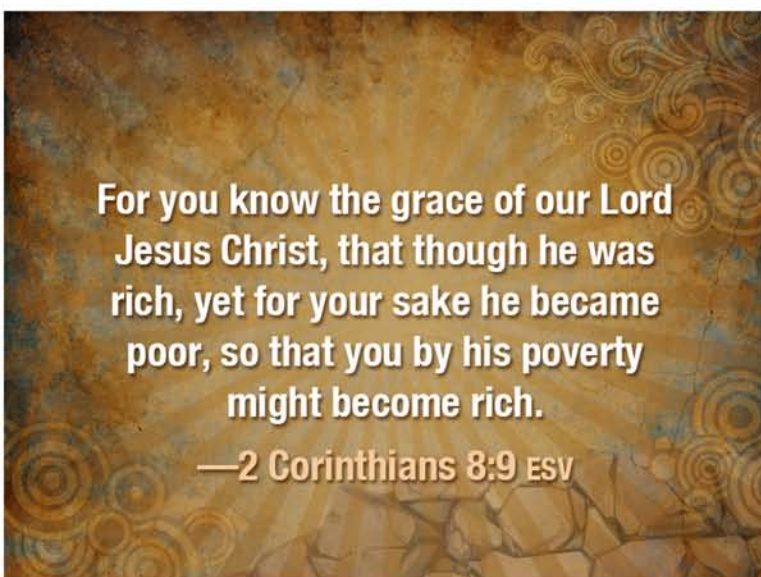
Problem: Division
Issue: Money
Cause: Selfishness

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“To consider persons and events and situations only in light of their effect upon myself is to live at the doorway of hell.” —Thomas Merton

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For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

—2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV

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