

## Post Sermon Guide 3.22.20 Nehemiah 5:1-19

### Sharing

Much has been made of “social distancing” this week. The number of people we should be around at any given time has changed, and it’s all about flattening the upward curve of those infected.

Our pastor looks at another form of social distancing from our study of Nehemiah, and it’s called selfishness! Chuck said, “When the Enemy fails in his attacks from without, he then begins to attack from within, and one of his favorite weapons is selfishness. If he can get us to prioritize ourselves and what we want, then he will win the victory before we realize that he is even at work.”

Here is Pastor Chuck’s outline for Nehemiah 5:1-19:

### Preparation

- I. **The Family Outcry - Neh. 5:1-5**
- II. **The Family Meeting - Neh. 6-13 / Eph. 4:26 / Prov. 16:32 / 1 Cor. 6:1**
- III. **The Family Example - Neh. 14-19**

### The Family Outcry

On top of everything happening to Nehemiah and God’s people, they were facing another crisis. There was a famine in the land, and they were taking advantage of each other because of the dire situation. They were having an economic, desperate situation. Sound familiar?

*Is it tempting to think selfishly during these times? Or is this a time to think how God has commanded to love others as ourselves? What are some tangible ways to share with others? What are some things you have done already that could encourage others in your family/group to try?*

### The Family Meeting

Here are a couple of places our pastor shares the importance of scripture:

“Then the whole congregation together praised the Lord. Why? Because God had enabled Nehemiah to help them begin to solve their problems, and he had directed the money lenders to acknowledge their sins and make restitution. Public confession can have a profoundly positive effect on a body of believers. This great assembly was not an economic summit. It was a worship service where Nehemiah had lifted a financial problem to the highest possible level. God’s people need to follow his example and deal with every problem in the light of the will of God as declared in the Word of God.”

“When we are resolving conflict, we must allow the Word of God to guide our words, emotions, and actions.”

*What verse or passage has God used to speak to your heart these past few days?*

Chuck pointed out Nehemiah’s righteous indignation versus anger when he said, “There is no Christian justification for the inability to control one’s temper. God lives in you! When you give the circumstance to him, you cannot help but control your spirit. And that is necessary in any Godly confrontation. You cannot control how the other person responds, but you do have complete control of how you do.”

*Take a personal moment now and ask would those closest to you say anger would be one of your descriptors?*

Nehemiah points out what kind of witness they were having with other nations in verse 9. Our pastor made this observation: "If we truly fear the Lord, then we will want to honor him before those who don't believe in him."

*Does this statement bring to mind any area of thinking and conduct that you and the Holy Spirit need to address?*

Chuck said, "To fear the Lord means to seek to glorify God in everything we do. It means listening to his Word, honoring it, and obeying it. Oswald Chambers: 'The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.'"

*In what specific ways does this quote apply to you?*

### **The Family Example**

Our pastor then shared this quote from D.L. Moody: "A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine." He then makes these four points:

**He focused on people.**

**He did not seek personal gain.**

**He participated in the work**

**He pointed to God.**

*Taking a cue from Nehemiah's walk with God, rate yourself in each of the previous statements.*

Last week our pastor said, "Our work is to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and glorify God." He made several references about nurturing our relationship with God being the most important call for us to do.

*Spend these closing moments with your family/group sharing with each other how your walk with God has been going this past week.*