

NEHEMIAH 5:1-19

Introduction

Social and economic injustice has sadly become a common headline these days, but it is certainly nothing new. Ever since sin entered the world, there have been those who have attempted to take advantage of those who have fallen on hard times. Greed and sinful pride are powerful gods that prop up egos and gives people the illusion of power as they control others, accumulating vast amounts of wealth while turning a blind eye to those suffering in poverty without even the most basic necessities of life. We see examples in our country, around the world and throughout history. How sad to see one human being treat another human being as a source of income. That is especially true when it is found within the Christian community, Christians taking advantage of one another. Yet, that is what Nehemiah found when he returned to Jerusalem. It was not merely the city walls that were in disrepair, but also the relationships among God's people that were in need of repair. What can we learn from Nehemiah's reaction to the economic injustice he observed?

Nehemiah 5:1-13

1. Why were these Jewish men and women needing to mortgage their land and use their children as collateral?
2. What was Nehemiah's initial reaction and was it appropriate?
3. What two things did Nehemiah do next?
4. How did the nobles and officials react to the charges Nehemiah brought against them?

Nehemiah 5:14-19

5. What "benefit" did Nehemiah not use during his 12 years as governor in Jerusalem?