

SERMON NOTES

March 8 2025

Serving God by Putting Away Differences in the Family of God.

Nehemiah 5:1-19

While the building continued and the wall is nearing completion, infighting and deliberate _____ activity were at hand.

Why is it easier to _____ - an enemy than to _____ a friend who hurts us.

Psalm 55:12-14 *"For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng."*

Jewish _____ were enslaving _____.

Nehemiah 5:1-5 *"Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives _____ their Jewish brothers. For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."*

In the midst of a " _____ work" for a "great _____" "the men and their wives raised a great _____ against their Jewish brothers."

Some found ways to get _____ off the backs of the populace resulting in _____ and _____.

Vs. 2 there were people who owned _____ land but needed food because of a famine.

Vs. 3 there were landowners who had _____ their property for food.

Vs. 4 _____ were too high.

Vs. 5 Wealthy _____ exploiting others

Deuteronomy 23:19-20: *"Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite, so that the Lord your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess."*

Vs. 6-13: *"I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. I 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 and 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!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. So 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? Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. 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." Then 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. I 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."*

Vs. 6 _____ anger (pointed at self) is _____
_____ anger (against _____) is not sin

Vs. 7 Nehemiah *"took counsel with _____"*.

Proverbs 16:32 challenges us *"It is better to be _____ tempered than famous; it is better to have self-control than to control an army."*

Nehemiah publicly _____ the people whose selfishness had created the strife

Matthew 19 Go _____ to make amends . Go with _____ others. If still no resolution take it to the _____ group that was affected.

Vs. 7 Nehemiah reminded them that they were robbing their *"own _____,"* n

Vs 8 Enslaving those they had just _____

Vs. 9 *"What you are doing is _____"*

Be _____ and _____.

Vs. 10-13 _____ the land *"We will do as you say."*

Mark 12:30-31: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*