

DARING TO FACE INJUSTICE

56 Days of Nehemiah – Part 5

September 2, 2007

Nehemiah 5:1-5 (NIV) *“Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their Jewish brothers. ² Some were saying, ‘We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.’ ³ Others were saying, ‘We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.’ ⁴ Still others were saying, ‘We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards. ⁵ Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our countrymen and though our sons are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but **we are powerless**, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.’ ”*

SOURCES OF INJUSTICE...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Point of this Message: Is how Nehemiah

_____ to injustice.

What Breaks Your Heart? _____

Romans 12:15 (NIV) *“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”*

WAYS TO FACE INJUSTICE

1. _____ to the situation.

Nehemiah 5:6 (NIV) *"When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry."*

Never get mad because somebody treated you unfairly... get mad because the Kingdom of God has been hindered.

2. _____ on your reaction.

Proverbs 29:11 (NIV) *"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control."*

Nehemiah 5:7a (NIV) *"I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials..."*

3. _____ with those involved.

Nehemiah 5:7-8 (GW) *"After thinking it over, I confronted the nobles and the leaders. I told them, 'You are charging interest on loans made to your own relatives.' I arranged for a large meeting to deal with them. ⁸ Then I told them, 'We have done our best to buy back our Jewish relatives who had been sold to other nations. Now you are selling your Jewish relatives so that we have to buy them back again!' They were unable to say anything."*

Exodus 22:25 (NIV) *"If you lend money to one of My people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest."*

Deuteronomy 23:20 (NIV) *"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."*

4. _____ of the people.

Matthew 25:40 (CEV) *"The king will answer, 'Whenever you did it for any of My people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for Me.'"*

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