

### **Recap of 1/27/19 (Nehemiah 5:1-8 ):**

1. In Nehemiah 5 we clearly see the “center” that enabled Nehemiah to be a great and godly leader. He was “all in,” single-minded in his devotion to God. Reverence for God and for His Word was at the heart of Nehemiah’s life.

“Here is the dynamic that motivated the godly Nehemiah—reverence for God. Unless you and I, as Christian people, revere God, we are not going to progress very far along the spiritual path. Reverence for the Lord is described in Scripture as the foundation of right conduct (Psa. 111:10; Prov. 1:7). In an age when standards are being lowered and moral absolutes ignored, it is so easy to rationalize issues and cut corners morally on the basis that everyone else is doing the same. But blessed are those who, like Nehemiah, stand up for truth and righteousness and say: ‘But our of reverence for God I did not act like that.’”

“When we disregard any of God’s rules for living as laid down in Scripture, we expose ourselves to troubles. We take His way or we take the consequences. Period.” (Selwyn Hughes)

2. Nehemiah calls the nobles and officials of Judea to task for ignoring God’s Word and acting in a way that was bringing reproach upon God’s reputation. Their failure was their taking advantages financially of their poorest Jewish brethren, who under the pressure of drought, building the wall, and excessive taxation, were having to mortgage their property and sell their children into slavery to meet their obligations. Instead of following the precepts in the Law (helping the poor by loaning money without interest or fee) they were charging excessive interest, taking advantage of the situation. (Exodus 22:25-27; Leviticus 25:31-38; Deuteronomy 23:19-20; 24:10-13; 15:7-8 are the pertinent passages)

3. The Israelites were to have the following attitudes toward each other and toward possessions:

-They were not to gain from another’s distress.

-Their possessions were not their own.

-They were not to make a profit from each other.

-They were God’s possession and not to be the possession of any other (see NT – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

-They were to treat others with love.