

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 11

Major Theme

Use the possessions and wealth God has given to you for His glory and the good of others.

A Parable - Matthew 25:14-30

The Outcry - Nehemiah 5:1-5

- The wealthy Jews are mistreating and abusing their fellow Jews
 - This is a violation of God's Law and their covenant to be a people together
- "Do not charge your brother interest on silver, food, or anything that can earn interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but you must not charge your brother Israelite interest, so that the Lord your God may bless you in everything you do in the land you are entering to possess." // Deuteronomy 23:19-20 (CSB)
- The poor Jews are suffering because while they are working on the wall they are unable to work their fields and pay their taxes to Artaxerxes.
- The problems they are facing are numerous:
 - the inability of the poor Jews to work the land and provide for themselves
 - the way the work on the wall will suffer if they leave it to work the land
 - the mounting financial burden of mortgaging the fields and vineyards and borrowing to pay the king's tax on mortgaged land

- the devastation of selling one's children into slavery
- the compromised position of vulnerable children, especially daughters, enslaved to others.
- "Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ... Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith." // Galatians 6:2, 10 (CSB)

The Call to Repentance - Nehemiah 5:6-13

- Exodus 22:25-27
- "Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, "It is written, my house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves!" // Matthew 21:12-13 (CSB)
- The story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19

The Servant Leader - Nehemiah 5:14-19

- "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." // Matthew 20:28 (CSB)
- "Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him." // John 13:16 (CSB)