

Internal Bleeding

Nehemiah 5-7



Siege of Minas Tirith

Setting:

Neh. 4:21 So we labored at the work [on the wall], and half of them held the spears from break of dawn until the stars came out. 22 I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night inside Jerusalem, so that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." 23 So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me ever took off our clothes; each kept his weapon in his right hand.

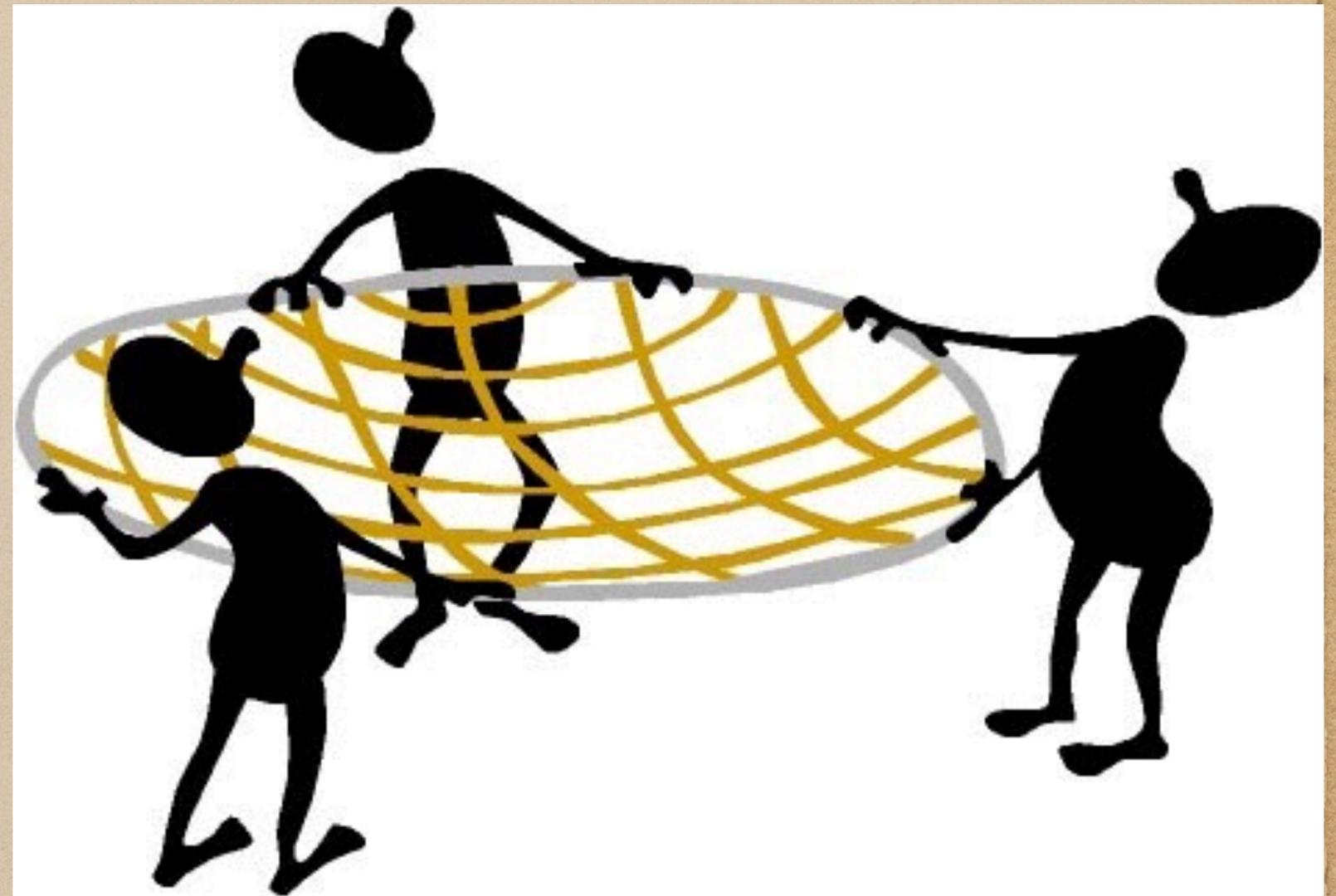
... and on top of that...

- ◆ Famine
- ◆ Taxes
- ◆ Loans, Interest, Collateral,
Foreclosure



The Safety Net:

- ◆ no Welfare, E.I., Red cross
- ◆ Just Father Abraham's many...



“As far as we were able, we have bought back our Jewish kindred who had been sold to other nations; but now you are selling your own kin, who must then be bought back by us!” ... 9 So I said, “The thing that you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God...? 10 Moreover I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us stop this taking of interest. 11 Restore to them, this very day, their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the interest on money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.”

- Nehemiah 5:8-11 (NRSV)

It could have been
avoided:

- ◆ Image
- ◆ Fear
- ◆ Respect



The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people, and took food and wine from them, besides forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. ... I [also] did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because of the heavy burden of labor on the people.

- Nehemiah 5:15, 18 (NRSV)

How to stop the internal bleeding:

“He reveals his twofold motivation: first... reverence for God, which restrained him from ‘lording it over the people’ (15b)... second, brotherly compassion, ‘because servitude was heavy upon this people’ (18). [Nehemiah] exemplified the two great commandments.”

-Derek Kidner, Ezra-Nehemiah, p. 107



- ◆ <http://images2.fanpop.com/image/photos/9500000/Minas-Tirith-minas-tirith-9563610-704-353.jpg>
- ◆ http://static.independent.co.uk/s3fs-public/styles/story_medium/public/thumbnails/image/2015/06/17/09/california-getty.jpg
- ◆ <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/fa/75/0e/fa750e4a982c5e3f6407dc4f202256b3.jpg>
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