

WEEK SEVEN

The Internal Enemy: Justice & Integrity Nehemiah 5:1-19

The Scholar's Corner: The Torah strictly forbade charging interest to a fellow Israelite. The nobles were violating the Year of Jubilee principles, destroying the brotherhood of Israel.

The Heart of the Matter: You can't build a holy wall with unholy hands. Injustice within the church ruins its testimony.

1. The Great Outcry (vv. 1-5)

Economic crisis: Famine + High Taxes = Debt Slavery. The wealthy are preying on the poor.

2. Righteous Anger (vv. 6-11)

Nehemiah is very angry. He confronts the noble publicly and demands an end to usury.

3. The Promise (vv. 12-13)

The nobles agree to repay. Nehemiah performs a symbolic act (shaking his garment) to illustrate God's judgment.

4. The Governor's Example (vv. 14-19)

Nehemiah waived his rights as governor, refusing the governor's food allowance to ease the people's burden.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Why is internal conflict often more damaging than external persecution?
2. When is anger righteous, and how do we manage it?
3. How does the fear of God protect us from greed?
4. What privileges might you need to give up for the sake of others?
5. How can we ensure our church is a place of justice?