

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 5

NOTES FROM LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE _____

V1. OUTCRY FROM WITHIN

- AN OUTCRY OF THE PEOPLE TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE
- SHIFT FROM THE WALLS TO THE PEOPLE
- NEHEMIAH DOES NOT LOSE SIGHT THAT THE WALLS ARE FOR THE PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE ARE NOT JUST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALLS.

V2-5. THE CONDITION OF MANY OF THE PEOPLE IS TROUBLEING

- WE SEE THREE AFFLICTED PEOPLE GROUPS
 - *V2. Large families struggling to eat*
 - *V3-4. Those who have mortgages their homes and farmland for food and taxes*
 - *V5. Those who have been forced to enslave their children because they no longer own their own land or crops*
- NEHEMIAH KNEW THIS WAS WRONG
- REMEMBER THEY HAD JUST BOUGHT MANY OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE BACK FROM EXILE, AND NOW THEY WERE ENSLAVING THEIR OWN

V6. RIGHTEOUS ANGER AND A PAUSE

- THIS ANGER ITSELF WAS NOT WRONG NOR WAS HIS RESPONSE
- HE PAUSES TO REFLECT AND COLLECT CHARGES TO BRING TO THE LEADERS
 - *Pausing to take counsel of any kind after any anger is stirred can never be a bad thing*

V7. THIS IS WRONG - CONFRONTS

- INTEREST
- SELLING EACH OTHER AFTER WE WERE BOUGHT BACK AT A PRICE-GOSPEL PICTURE
- MET WITH SILENCE
- THIS THING IS NOT GOOD
- LENDING MONEY AND GRAIN

V9. FEAR ECHOES

- NEHEMIAH ECHOES THE FEAR OF THE LORD WHERE FEAR IS ALSO ECHOING IN HIS LIFE
- HE DOESN'T PERFORM TASKS BECAUSE OF THIS FEAR, HE LIVES IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD
- NOT IN DRUDGERY OR DUTY, BUT IN DELIGHT
- NOT A SERVILE FEAR, BUT A FAMILY (PHILEO) FEAR. THE FEAR OF A HEALTHY FATHER-A REVERENT AND NOT WANTING TO DISAPPOINT

V11. SOLUTION TO MAKE IT RIGHT

- HE CALLS THEM TOGETHER FACE TO FACE AND APPEALS THE TREATMENT OF THEIR BROTHERS TO BE SUBJECT TO RELATIONAL FEAR OF THE LORD
- V11. STOP IT!
- V12. WE WILL RESTORE EVERYTHING WITHOUT INTEREST IT PAYMENT
- HE INVOLVED THE PRIESTS TO SWEAR AN OATH OF PROMISE

V11. A FINAL WORD

- V13. ACCOUNTABILITY- LET'S MAKE GOD'S PRIORITIES OUR PRIORITIES

Isaiah 33: "The fear of the LORD is our TREASURE."

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 5

- HE SHAKES OUT HIS CLOTHING TO MAKE AN EMPHASIS
- AMEN- THE WORK HALTED TO MAKE THE PEOPLE RIGHT WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER
- AND THEY DID IT

V14-19. JUMPS AHEAD

- WE SEE A TWELVE YEAR GLIMPSE LIKE A JOURNAL ENTRY, RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS OPPOSITION. THIS WAS HARD FOR HIM. GENEROSITY IS NOT EASY THE MORE YOU HAVE.
- HE DOES NOT TAKE THE FOOD ALLOWANCE
- HE DOES NOT TAKE THE STIPEND
- AND THEN HE SEATS HIS TABLE WITH 150 PEOPLE EACH DAY AT HIS OWN EXPENSE
- V18. SAYS THAT THEM TAKING CARE OF HIM WAS TOO HEAVY FOR THEM, SO HE TOOK CARE OF THEM
- NEHEMIAH IS MOTIVATED TO UNWAVERING PERSEVERANCE AND COMMITMENT TO GET THE JOB DONE, BUT VERSE 15 TELLS US AGAIN THAT IT IS NOT HIS RESOLVE-IT IS HIS FEAR.
 - *Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*
- THE FEAR OF GOD WILL ALWAYS MOTIVATE OUR DOING
 - *It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability, that counts. Corrie Ten Boom*
- IT IS NOT A CONTEMPLATION IT IS A MOTIVATION
- THE FEAR OF THE LORD MOTIVATES US TO ACT
 - *God's assignments are not for us to choose- the bible is filled with people doing things they are not comfortable doing, because of a healthy Fear of the LORD.*
 - *God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called*

V19. FOCUSED NOT PRIDE

- WE KNOW NEHEMIAH WAS WILLING TO RISK INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMIES TO PLEASE GOD
- HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE CONSISTENT EVEN WHEN LONELY, MISUNDERSTOOD, REJECTED, THREATENED, AFRAID, AND BROKEN
- THIS IS NOT A PRIDEFUL PRAYER, IT IS A LASER FOCUSED PRAYER LOOKING FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN AUDIENCE OF ONE

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

Isaiah 33: "The fear of the LORD is our TREASURE.