

The Attacks from Within

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***Nehemiah 5:1-5** Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. **2** Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain." **3** Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine." **4** Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards. **5** Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others."*

***Exodus 22:25** "If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest."*

- When we are focused on God's work, the enemy will do whatever he can to bring distraction or destruction.
- Satan Knows: That Nothing stops the work of God Like division
- Attacks from the inside hurt the most AND do the most damage.

***Galatians 5:9 (TLB)** But it takes only one wrong person among you to infect all the others.*

***Nehemiah 5:6-7** When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. **7** I pondered them in my mind...*

***Nehemiah 5:6-7 (ESV)** I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. **7** I took counsel with myself*

***1 Samuel 30:6 (NKJV)** "But David strengthened himself in the Lord"*

***Nehemiah 5:7** I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging your own people interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them*

- We need to face the enemy's attacks both cautiously and courageously.
- **David Guzik:** "This was great leadership from Nehemiah. He was a man passionate enough to get angry; but wise enough to not act until he had considered the matter carefully."

***Proverbs 16:32** "Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty,*

- **Martin Luther:** "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

***Nehemiah 5:8-9** and said: "As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!" They*

kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. **9** So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?

- We are to do what is right because it is right
- Walk in the Fear of the Lord= I raise my hands, close my hand and lift up my hands
- We are quick to fear many things but truly we are to only fear one thing
- **Oswald Chambers:** "The remarkable thing about fearing God, is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."
- When we walk in the fear of the Lord, only then can we truly walk by faith
- It is only when we fear the Lord that we can effectively show the world His goodness and glory.

1 Peter 2:11-12 (TLB) "Dear brothers, you are only visitors here. Since your real home is in heaven, I beg you to keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls. Be careful how you behave among your unsaved neighbors; for then, even if they are suspicious of you and talk against you, they will end up praising God for your good works when Christ returns."

Nehemiah 5:10-11 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! **11** Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil."

Nehemiah 5:11 (KJV) also the hundredth part of the money

- This has to be stopped NOW... Give it ALL back! Immediately--- NOW ---- IT is not ok to just feel bad there must be a correction here.... And it has to happen now... ----
- Nehemiah Calls out their sin and tells them they must repent. You must make it right

Nehemiah 5:12 "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say."...

- There are No problems too big for OUR God..... when we ask for His wisdom and direction.

Nehemiah 5:12-13... Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. **13** I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!" At this the whole assembly said, "Amen," and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

- In verse 1 there was a great out cry and now there is a great Praise... Unity was restored. The enemy was defeated, and the work of God will now continue
- Church today can we say Amen!!!

***Nehemiah 5:14-16** Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. **15** But the earlier governors—those before me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver (which is about 1 pound of silver) from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. **16** Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.*

- There is GREATER reward in fulfilling Gods calling than in the material things of this world

***Nehemiah 5:17-19** Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. **18** Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people. **19** Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.*

- Text **YES** to 321.574.6970 if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.