

#8 "Wealth and Conflict"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah

Eastside Christian Fellowship: October 7, 2007

Text: Nehemiah 5:1-5:13

Read Psalm 55:1-14 in your group. What is happening in vs. 12-14?
Talk about a time when you were hurt badly by someone dear to you?
Discuss a time when you hurt someone dear to you?

Read Nehemiah 5:1-13 in your group.

Describe the 4 types of people who are registering a complaint to Nehemiah in 5:1-5

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- ✍ Why is this such a big deal in Jerusalem at this time?
- ✍ Why is the timing of this conflict so critical?
- ✍ Give modern day examples of what this would be like in your community or at ECF.
- ✍ What affects a community more? Opposition or problems coming from the outside or from the inside? Why?

- ✍ Discuss what you see as the root of the problem in this passage? (*multiple answers*)
- ✍ What does the prophet Zechariah have to say in Zechariah 7:8-10 and 8:16-17 about similar matters? What is the essence of true "religion" according to him?

- ✍ Is this a rich verses poor issue or is it deeper than that?
- ✍ What was Nehemiah's very first reaction or emotion when he heard the complaints? Was that a bad thing? What did it produce?

Steps Nehemiah Took as a leader to stop the strife (5:6-13)

He was **C**_____

He then **C**_____

He wasn't afraid of **C**_____

He demanded **R**_____

Discuss as a group, the validity and meaning of the following principles that we pick up from Nehemiah 5.

1. It is important for us to **be** the church before we can **build** the church.
2. Relational problems are inevitable and ignoring them only makes it more painful to deal with in the future. "The first price you pay is always the cheapest." It's painful to stop strife but it will only get more difficult the longer you wait.
3. God's reputation is at stake when we have conflict within the church. Read John 17:23 and I Peter 2:11-12.
4. People either tend to love money and use people or love people and use money.
 - a. Isn't this at the heart of Neh. 5:1-5?
 - b. What is the difference between worshipping money and worshipping with our money?