



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 1  
The week of November 1, 2020

**Sermon Series: *Return and Rebuild***  
**Living for Others**  
**Nehemiah 5:1-19**

Welcome to the beginning of LCC’s ABIDE series for 2020-2021. We hope that this study guide will further your understanding of the passage from this Sunday’s sermon and draw you deeper into the application and expression of the truths discovered.

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Nehemiah and the builders along the wall were able to continue the work in spite of intense opposition from their surrounding enemies (Chapter 4). The project has now passed the half-way mark. However, in Chapter 5, the work came to a grinding halt. The work stopped not because of external threats but internal strife.

**I. The Bitter Dissension that Erupted: “*It’s All About Me*”**  
**Read Nehemiah 5:1-5**

As the passage opens, Nehemiah lists several complaints the Jewish community raised **against** (key word in verse 1) one another.

1. Why is internal conflict more difficult to deal with than threats from the outside?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does discord among God’s people interrupt God’s work?

Several injustices were taking place within the community. They can be traced by the phrase “there were those” in verses 2, 3 and 4. The needs were real. They probably predated Nehemiah’s arrival, but were also accelerated by Nehemiah’s insistence that the people live in the city while the walls were being built.

Take a moment and list the cries of the people:

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 4:

3. What’s at the core of all the grievances raised in this paragraph? (Read James 4:1-3). How does this shed light on any conflict you are currently experiencing?

4. Many nobles and officials were working on the wall, but they still saw a chance to make extra profit and they did it at the expense of others. How do we avoid treating people as a means to get what we want?

## **II. The Remedy to the Strife: “Love Others Like You Love You”**

### **Read Nehemiah 5:6-13**

It is one thing to confront foreign enemies and quite something else to deal with your own people when they fight one another. Nehemiah goes before the nobles and officials declaring to them the injustice of their actions. Nehemiah demands restitution, and the officials and nobles agree to do as he said.

1. Nehemiah is angry (v. 6). Can anger be an appropriate emotion? How can we tell the difference between righteous indignation and unrighteous anger?

2. How did Nehemiah guard himself against making a poor decision under the influence of anger (verse 7)?

3. What are some differences between confronting an enemy or a stranger and confronting someone with whom you are close?

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4. Look closely at Nehemiah's appeal in verse 9. What does it mean to fear God?

5. How does the fear of God determine how we live and how we act towards one another?

6. Read Mark 12:28-29. How does the second commandment come out of the first? ... from the first?  
What does it look like to love others like you love you?

7. Nehemiah convened a public assembly to create accountability. What object lesson did Nehemiah give regarding those who failed to keep their promise? (verse 13). How does this object lesson impact you?

### **III. Nehemiah's Example of Integrity and Selflessness**

#### **Read Nehemiah 5:14-19**

Nehemiah served as Governor for 12 years from approximately 445-433 BC. During that entire time, he refused to accept any personal privileges normally afforded to the Governor.

1. How was Nehemiah's leadership different from the preceding governors?

2. Once again, Nehemiah pointed to his fear of God as the primary motivation in his life (verse 15). What's the connection between the fear of the Lord and your own personal integrity?

3. How does Nehemiah's leadership remind us of Jesus?

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Sermon Notes: *Living for Others*

Nehemiah 5:1-19

**Read the Bible: Reading Plan for 2020**

Sunday, November 1 thru Saturday, November 7, 2020  
2 Kings 14, 2 Timothy 4, Hosea 7, Psalms 120-122; 2 Kings 15, Titus 1, Hosea 8, Psalms 123-125; 2 Kings 16, Titus 2, Hosea 9, Psalms 126-128; 2 Kings 17, Titus 3, Hosea 10, Psalms 129-131; 2 Kings 18, Philemon, Hosea 11, Psalms 132-134; 2 Kings 19, Hebrews 1 Hosea 12, Psalms 135-136; 2 Kings 20, Hebrews 2, Hosea 13, Psalms 137-138

Lined area for notes, containing 30 horizontal lines.