

# My Engagement with My Christian Community Reveals My Heart of Worship

---

How does the \_\_\_\_\_ result in worship?

What \_\_\_\_\_ can we \_\_\_\_\_ in Nehemiah 5?

What does all this have to do with you?

1. Living under the \_\_\_\_\_ is worship.

2. Living in \_\_\_\_\_ is worship.

3. Living with a \_\_\_\_\_ is worship.

4. Living with \_\_\_\_\_ is worship.

5. Living for the \_\_\_\_\_ is worship



NEHEMIAH

## **Nehemiah 5:1-13**

<sup>[1]</sup> Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. <sup>[2]</sup> For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." <sup>[3]</sup> There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." <sup>[4]</sup> And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. <sup>[5]</sup> Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

<sup>[6]</sup> I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. <sup>[7]</sup> I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them <sup>[8]</sup> and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. <sup>[9]</sup> So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? <sup>[10]</sup> Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. <sup>[11]</sup> Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." <sup>[12]</sup> Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. <sup>[13]</sup> I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised. (ESV)

## **Leviticus 25:35-43**

<sup>[35]</sup> "If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. <sup>[36]</sup> Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. <sup>[37]</sup> You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit. <sup>[38]</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

<sup>[39]</sup> "If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave: <sup>[40]</sup> he shall be with you as a hired worker and as a sojourner. He shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee. <sup>[41]</sup> Then he shall go out from you, he and his children with him, and go back to his own clan and return to the possession of his fathers. <sup>[42]</sup> For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. <sup>[43]</sup> You shall not rule over him ruthlessly but shall fear your God. (ESV)

# My Engagement with My Christian Community Reveals My Heart of Worship

---

July 10, 2022

**Open:** Share about a time your heart has been stirred to action because of an injustice committed against those you cared about.

**Read & Discuss:** Nehemiah 5:1-19

1. How would the circumstances in verses 1 through 5 have been exasperated by the building of the wall? How might we sin against others today in ways that interferes with their ability to serve God?
2. What comparisons and contrasts do you note between those nobles and officials (vv. 7-8) and Nehemiah and his servants (vv. 10, 14-18)? How does our personal example influence our ability to call others to faithfully follow God?
3. How would you describe the kind of leadership Nehemiah exercises throughout verses 6-13? Why do you think the decision to follow God and financially support the community (v.11) prompted the sort of response among the people that we see in verse 13b? Have you ever experienced anything like this? Explain.
4. How might those in leadership positions today assume some of the privileges these nobles and officials took on? When have you seen a leader give up his own right or privilege in order to serve as an example, love others, and honor God as Nehemiah did (v. 10, 14, 18)?
5. Nehemiah acts out of the fear of God (v. 15) and encouraged others to do the same (v. 9). What does it mean to fear God? How has your fear of God shaped your life and choices?
6. For these Israelites, how would walking in the fear of God "prevent the taunts" of their enemies (v. 9)? How might the way we live impact the way our culture views our God? When submitting yourself to the authority of God actually ends up causing others to "taunt" you, how do you tend to react? How should you react and why?

**Apply:** How would you help a new believer understand their interaction with their Christian community reflects how they view the worth of God? What are some ways you might reflect the worth of God through your interaction with your Christian community this week?

**Pray:** Pray that God would make us a people who honor Him in the way we treat one another.

## Nehemiah 5:1-19

<sup>1</sup> Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. <sup>2</sup> For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." <sup>3</sup> There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." <sup>4</sup> And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards." <sup>5</sup> Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

<sup>6</sup> I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. <sup>7</sup> I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them <sup>8</sup> and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. <sup>9</sup> So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?"

<sup>10</sup> Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. <sup>11</sup> Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." <sup>12</sup> Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. <sup>13</sup> I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

<sup>14</sup> Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. <sup>15</sup> The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. <sup>16</sup> I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. <sup>17</sup> Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us.

<sup>18</sup> Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people.

<sup>19</sup> Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people. (ESV)