

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 5:1-16, Matt. 20:25-28, Gen 12:1-3, and Phil 2:5-11

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 2/11

1. Read Nehemiah 5:1-16. What is going on in and around Jerusalem that so angers Nehemiah? How does Nehemiah behave differently than the nobles have been behaving up until now?
2. It wasn't just Sanballat, Tobiah, and others of the surrounding peoples who were oppressing God's people. Their own nobles were doing so as well. Instead of trying to help the poor in Jerusalem, they were gobbling up their properties and enslaving them through predatory lending. What Bible passages do you know that speak against oppressing the poor? Name as many as you can.
3. Read Matthew 20:25-28. Jesus seems to expect His people to hold position, blessings, and privilege in a very different way than is common in the world. How would you explain and expand on the way Jesus wants His people to steward position, influence, and blessings?
4. Read Genesis 12:1-3. The ethic that blessing is to be stewarded in a way that blesses others seems to have been "baked in" from the very earliest days of God's interaction with His people. Who do you know who does this really well? Explain.
5. It might be easy to think that these passages are only referring to people with lots of resources, but God expects all of us to steward our lives for the benefit of others. Who do you think God is calling you to be a blessing to these days? What might that look like this week?
6. Read Philippians 2:5-11. A book was once written based on this passage called "Descending into Greatness." Reflect on this passage and that title. How might this be instructive about the unique way God has set up His Kingdom to work?