

Nehemiah Helps the Poor - Nehemiah 5:1-19

Topics: Accusation, Answers, Circumstances, Complaining, Conflict, Criticism, Despair, Dishonesty, Divisions, Example, Frustration, Greed, Injustice, Involvement, Judging Others, Leadership, Life-style, Listening, Materialism, Money, Needs, Opportunities, Persecution, Possessions, Praise, Problems, Repentance, Resources, Sacrifice, Unfairness, Wealth

Open It

1. What do you think are some of the most pressing social problems today?
2. What are some reasons people choose not to get involved in social issues?
- * 3. How do you feel when solicitors ask you to give your time or money to charity?

Explore It

- * 4. What is the conflict between some of the Jews at the beginning of this story? (5:1-5)
5. What caused the Israelites' problems? (5:3-5)
6. How did Nehemiah react to the Israelites' complaints? (5:6)
7. What did Nehemiah do before he took any action? (5:7)
8. What accusations did Nehemiah make against the officials? (5:7-11)
- * 9. What action did Nehemiah take on behalf of the Israelites? (5:7-18)
10. How did the officials respond to Nehemiah's accusations? Why? (5:8, 12)
11. Why were the actions of the officials wrong? (5:9)
12. How did Nehemiah insure that the officials would keep their promise? (5:12-13)
13. In what ways was Nehemiah different from other officials? (5:14-18)
- * 14. What prevented Nehemiah from acting the same way the other officials did? (5:15)
15. What did Nehemiah want in return for his generosity to the Israelites? (5:19)

Get It

- * 16. In what ways is Nehemiah a role model for us today?
17. What does it mean to be devoted to the work God has given us, as was Nehemiah?
18. Why do you think Nehemiah sacrificed what he rightfully deserved as a governor?
19. In what circumstances might it be good for you to accept less than what you deserve?
20. What should motivate us to get involved in social issues?
21. How do you think Christians should be involved in social issues?
22. What social injustice concerns you?
- * 23. How would you like to contribute to solving a particular social problem that concerns you?
24. What should we desire in return for the good deeds that we do?

Apply It

- * 25. What concrete action could you take this week to help solve a social problem?
26. What could you do today to encourage a friend who is struggling or hurting?