

# Nehemiah

## Injustice addressed

- Exploitation of the people by rulers exposed by a famine.
  - Property needed for shelter and sustenance mortgaged for food.
  - Oppressive taxation
  - Sons and daughters sold into slavery in an effort to survive.
  - Interest charged on the mortgaged property and loans for paying taxes.

## Injustice addressed

- Clear violation of the Law on two major counts
  - Interest forbidden when doing business with a fellow Israelite
    - <sup>25</sup> “If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.  
*Exodus 22:25 (ESV)*

## Injustice addressed

- Clear violation of the Law on two major counts
  - Interest forbidden when doing business with a fellow Israelite
    - <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.  
*Leviticus 25:35-37 (ESV)*

## Injustice addressed

- Clear violation of the Law on two major counts
  - Interest forbidden when doing business with a fellow Israelite
    - <sup>19</sup> “You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest. <sup>20</sup> You may charge a foreigner interest, but you may not charge your brother interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.  
*Deuteronomy 23:19-20 (ESV)*

## Injustice addressed

- Clear violation of the Law on two major counts
  - Enslavement of a fellow Israelite forbidden
    - <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.  
*Leviticus 25:39-42 (ESV)*

## Injustice addressed

- Nehemiah's response
  - Anger
  - Deliberation
  - Appropriate action
    - Clearly articulated their departure from God's Word
    - Emphasized the gravity of their offense in dishonoring God among the nations of the world

## Injustice addressed

- Nehemiah's response
  - Appropriate action
    - Called for restitution
    - Made them accountable to accomplish the restitution
    - Warned them of God's judgment on them if they did not fulfill their promise of restitution.

## Injustice addressed

- Nehemiah set the example of a servant-leader
  - Nehemiah did not view his position as an entitlement for personal luxury.
  - He did not allow those who were under him to oppress the people.

## Injustice addressed

- Nehemiah set the example of a servant-leader
  - Nehemiah focused on the work that would benefit the people as a whole (rebuilding the wall).
  - Nehemiah served sacrificially
  - Nehemiah was acutely aware of his accountability before God.