

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Reputation (An Internal Threat): Nehemiah 5:1-19

1. Read Nehemiah 5:1-5. With the conditions described in chapter 4 with those in chapter 5, what difficulties did they face that caused the outcry and what/who was responsible for each? Why would this outcry be of concern to Nehemiah? How would it threaten Nehemiah's mission?
2. Read Nehemiah 5:6-11 and Leviticus 25:35-43. How does Nehemiah respond to the outcry? What charges does he make? What action does he call for? Ultimately what was the sin of the nobles and officials and why should they have known better?
3. Read Mathew 18:15-17, 1 Timothy 5:19-20, and 2 Timothy 4:1-2. How are we to deal with sin within the body of Christ? How should the church respond when a church leader has unrepentant sin? How does Nehemiah's direct approach compare with how we often deal with conflict within the church? How can you apply this to yourself and to GracePoint?
4. Read Nehemiah 5:8 & 12a, Isaiah 55:11, and John 16:7-9. What is the response of the accused? Why do you think Nehemiah's words and action are effective? What encouragement do you find in these verses? What does this teach you about dealing with sin in your own life?
5. Read Nehemiah 5:12b-13. What additional steps did Nehemiah take to ensure that the promises made were kept? Why was this important for the people and the accused? What might have happened if Nehemiah did not take this step?
6. Read Nehemiah 5:10 & 14-19 with Matthew 20:25-28. What does Nehemiah do that displays his attitude toward leadership? Where does he seek his reward? How do Nehemiah's actions reflect Jesus's model for a godly leader?
7. What do you learn about godly leadership from Nehemiah in this chapter? How can you apply those lessons to your life this week?