

Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

Nehemiah 5:1-19

“About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews... “We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine... to pay our taxes... we must sell our children into slavery just to get the money to live...” “When I (*Nehemiah*) heard their complaints, I was very angry.” After thinking about the situation, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, “You are oppressing your own relatives by charging them interest when they borrow money!” Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem.” Nehemiah 5:1-19

“For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10).

Sooner or later the Holy Spirit will touch this area of your heart – how you relate to money and possessions. It’s a truth of life that we need money in some form in order to live. But that is for different than living for money. Nehemiah faced this issue square on. Those in a Judah were facing such extreme financial difficulties that it angered Nehemiah. (Nehemiah 5:6). Poverty is crippling and poverty is stifling. It dashes dreams and hopes as it snuffs out creativity and initiation. It is an enemy Jesus came to defeat. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Good News to the poor!” (Luke 4:18)

High interest had brought the Jews into slavery by their own brothers! They didn’t have enough money for their basic needs, their homes were mortgaged, and they were unable to pay taxes without borrowing yet even more money at high interest rates! We’ll say it again – poverty is crippling! “The borrower is servant to the lender.” (Proverb 22:7)

Learn the lessons of proper relationship to money. Learn to trust the Lord and obey Him concerning your financial habits. Jesus became poor that you might be free from the grip of poverty, but there are many lessons to learn.

“Lord, You are the focus and love of my life. Money is my servant, enabling me to better serve You.”

Work hard and believe harder!

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