

# Troubles on the Inside

## Nehemiah 5

*Small Group Study, week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.*

### For Starters

How easily discouraged are you when people let you down? Explain.

### Read

Nehemiah 5.

### Context

Despite the external threats that have faced the Jews, work on the wall has continued. But now another threat arises, in a sense from the outside – as it is precipitated by a famine – but primarily from the inside as some people take advantage of other people's distress.

### Study

#### Verses 1-5

1. What problems surface at the start of the chapter? How would it have affected the families personally impacted, and the overall project to rebuild the wall?
2. What do you think is the bigger threat to the growth of God's Kingdom – attacks from outside the church, or problems on the inside?

#### Verses 6-13

3. Nehemiah is incensed at what has been happening, and lays the blame at the feet of the nobles and officials. What strategies does he adopt to address the problem? To what do you attribute his success?
4. "Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God ...?" (verse 9). What do you understand by the phrase "walk in the fear of God"? How is it different to being afraid of God? How should it motivate us to right living?

#### Verses 14-19

5. In these verses Nehemiah summarises his 12 years of governorship in Judah. In what ways did he set an example of exemplary leadership?
6. Read [1 Corinthians 9:1-18](#). How do Nehemiah's attitude and actions compare with Paul's?
7. Nehemiah has not had an easy ride since the report of his brother Hanani reached him in the first chapter of the book, but under his leadership a lot has been achieved. His statement "out of reverence for God I did not act like that" (verse 15) is arguably a summary of his counter-cultural attitude and approach from the beginning. Think about the circumstances in which you are likely to find yourself over the coming days. In what situations particularly would you like to be able to say, "Out of reverence for God I did not act like that"?

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## Prayer

Pray for more courage and more of a God-reverencing, counter-cultural attitude.

## Resources

In addition to the Blog posts, all small group studies can also be located in [chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources](http://chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources). The Blog posts will continue to be posted on the Sunday preceding the message, but the studies may be available sooner from this page.