

Message: ***"Doing What is Right"***

Scripture: Nehemiah 5:1-13
(10-26-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

Nehemiah 5 opens by telling us that there was a great outcry from the people. The problem is that the people are struggling to have food. There is famine in the land. Further, the Persian taxation on them is burdensome. They are struggling at every turn. The people are paying for these taxes by borrowing money. They are getting hit with the interest payments. The situation is dire. It is not the surrounding nations that are doing this to the people. The Jewish people are doing this to each other. This is wrong. Nehemiah challenged all to do what is right.

Warren Wiersbe said of these verses, *"When the enemy fails in his attacks from the outside, he then begins to attack from within; and one of his favorite weapons is selfishness. If he can get us thinking only about ourselves and what we want, then he will win the victory before we realize that he is even at work. Selfishness means putting myself at the center of everything and insisting on getting what I want when I want it. It means exploiting others so I can be happy and taking advantage of them just so I can have my own way. It is not only wanting my own way but expecting everybody else to want my way too."* We need to do what is right.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
(1 Timothy 6:9-10)

1. Why do you want to get rich? Or have money?
2. Is getting rich a means to an end or an end in itself? If it's a means, to what?
3. What steps are you taking to guard yourself against the pitfalls of greed?

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
(1 Timothy 6:17)

1. What's your reaction to someone who has less than what you have in possession?
2. How would you react if all your earthly possession were suddenly taken away?
3. What part does God have in your accumulation and enjoyment of earthly possession?

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.
(1 Timothy 6:18-19)

1. Do you feel that the world owes you ... or that you owe the world?
2. What proportion of what you get do you give out?
3. What eternal dividend do you expect from your earthly investments?