



Week 3 | Nehemiah | August 21

Key Focus: The Gospel is for *all* of our lives, even our finances.

Opening Up:

- Are you an buyer or saver? Explain.
- What or when are you most likely to impulse buy? Explain.
- Do you ever turn to buying something to raise your mood? Explain.
- Do you ever struggle with buyers remorse? Explain.

Reference: Nehemiah 5

Discuss:

1. We have been saying that “we need to make God famous for God’s mission to fix a broken world.” This assumes that Christians believe that the world is broken. How are you tempted to turn to broken things in this world to deal with your brokenness?
2. Jesus says, “no one can serve two masters... You can not serve God and money.” Have you ever been in service to money? How does money make you it’s servant? How is serving God different?
3. Nehemiah, in 5:15, chose not to do what was in his right to do financially. He was wealthy and he could have exploited that wealth (5:16). The “fear of God” profoundly effected his financial dealings. How has God effected the handling of your finances? or, What has God been telling you that you need to change?
4. In Psalm 24:1 we read that everything is God’s. In other words you don’t own it, you steward it. How does this change how you view what you have?
5. In Proverbs 6:6 and 8 we see that the ant is wise. She stores up for lean times. In Proverbs 14:24 we see that the accumulation of wealth is a crown of the wise. What make saving money hard? Who taught you the importance of saving? How does it feel to have money in savings?
6. God’s missional people should not have to choose between financial security and the mission of God. In Nehemiah 5 the wealthy were exploiting the poor who were on mission for God. There is no greater cause than the mission of God at work through the people of God. There is nothing that demands our sacrificial giving quite like God’s mission. Describe your relationship with giving to church? (Feel free to be honest if you have had bad experiences.)
7. In 5:11 and 12 all debts are cancelled and property is restored. What would that feel like if that were true of you? How do you think a community would change if everyone’s debt were canceled all at one time? How does it feel knowing Christ has cancelled your debts?
8. What would the consequences be if no one ever gave to the mission of God at work through the people of God? Imagine a world without the church and without the gospel. What’s different?
9. How does God want you to be generous toward his mission?
10. Pray.