

Nehemiah: Servant to The King

“When Conflict Comes” (Nehemiah 5)

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, August 1, 2010

Introduction:

Nehemiah's pain for Jerusalem and the glory of God (1:3-4), led to his prayer to God (1:5-11) and his petition to King Artaxerxes (2:1-9). God opened the doors and Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and cast a vision for the people of God to “arise and build.” Nearly everyone in Judah got involved in the rebuilding the wall (chapter 3) until the work came to a brief halt due to the taunts, threats and terrorism of their enemies. Under Nehemiah's leadership they soon resumed the work with swords in one hand and tools in the other. **Then came the inevitable internal conflict....**

I. Nehemiah's _____ Brought _____. (5:1-6)

The complaints of the people demonstrated growing desperation:

- A. “We lack food, because the population is too great.” (v. 2)
- B. “We are mortgaging our fields for food, because of the famine.” (v. 3)
- C. “We are selling our children, because we cannot pay our taxes.” (4-5a)
- D. “We are losing our fields, because we cannot pay our mortgages” (5b)

Be “Quick to Listen” in Conflict (James 1:19-20)

- _____: Give all the necessary time to fully hear the other side.
- _____: Give all your focus to hearing what the other side is saying.
- _____: Ask questions that get to the heart of the matter.
- _____: Summarize the main points (content & feelings) in your own words.
- _____: Acknowledge what is true before going to points of disagreement.

II. Nehemiah's _____ Brought _____. (5:7-13)

A. The Servant of God's _____ in Conflict Resolution:

1. God's _____ was being _____. (v. 9)

Scripture: Romans 15:5-7

2. God's _____ were being _____. (v. 10)

Scriptures: Proverbs 14:21; Galatians 6:9

B. The Servant of God's _____ in Conflict Resolution. (v. 7-13)

1. Nehemiah took time to _____ the scope of the conflict.
Scriptures: Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:39-43
2. Nehemiah understood who was _____ for the conflict.
3. Nehemiah _____ the nature of the conflict.
4. Nehemiah involved _____ in the conflict resolution.
5. Nehemiah presented a _____ of action.

How did the assembly respond to Nehemiah's proposed plan of resolution?

- In _____: the assembly said "Amen!"
- In _____: they "praised the Lord"
- In _____: "the people did as they had promised"!

**What God promises, He performs;
and He expects the same from His people.**

III. Nehemiah's _____ Provided an _____ (5:14-19)

A. God's Servant Leads _____.

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

B. God's Servant Leads _____.

Scripture: Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:3-8

Application Questions:

Have you had the greatest conflict of all resolved...your conflict with the holy, creator God?

See Romans 5:1-2

What conflict can you help resolve for the glory of God and the good of those involved?

What have you learned today that can help you take the next step in resolving that conflict?

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IV. Nehemiah’s **Listening** Brought **Understanding**. (5:1-6)

The complaints of the people demonstrated growing desperation:

- A. “We lack food, because the population is too great.” (v. 2)
- B. “We are mortgaging our fields for food, because of the famine.” (v. 3)
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- D. “We are losing our fields, because we cannot pay our mortgages” (5b)

Be “Quick to Listen” in Conflict (James 1:19-20)

- **Wait:** Give all the necessary time to fully hear the other side.
- **Attend:** Give all your focus to hearing what the other side is saying.
- **Clarify:** Ask questions that get to the heart of the matter.
- **Reflect:** Summarize the main points (content & feelings) in your own words.
- **Agree:** Acknowledge what is true before going to points of disagreement.

V. Nehemiah’s **Action** Brought **Resolution**. (5:7-13)

A. The Servant of God’s **Motivation in Conflict Resolution:**

- 1. God’s **name** was being **defamed**. (v. 9)
Scripture: Romans 15:5-7
- 2. God’s **people** were being **demoralized**. (v. 10)
Scriptures: Proverbs 14:21; Galatians 6:9

B. The Servant of God's **Action** in Conflict Resolution. (v. 7-8, 11-13)

1. Nehemiah took time to **consider** the scope of the conflict. (v. 7a)
Scriptures: Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:39-43
2. Nehemiah understood **who was responsible** for the conflict. (v. 7b)
3. Nehemiah **clearly stated** the nature of the conflict. (v. 7c)
4. Nehemiah involved **all parties** in the conflict resolution. (v. 7d)
5. Nehemiah presented a **clear plan** of action. (vv. 11-13)

How did the assembly respond to Nehemiah's proposed plan of resolution?

- In **promise**... "the assembly said "Amen""
- In **praise**... they "praised the Lord"
- In **performance**... "the people did as they had promised"!

**What God promises, He performs;
and He expects the same from His people.**

VI. Nehemiah's **Sacrifice** Provided an **Example** (5:14-19)

A. God's Servant Leads **By Example**.

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

B. God's Servant Leads **Through Sacrifice**.

Scripture: Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:3-8

Application Questions:

Have you had the greatest conflict of all resolved...your conflict with the holy, creator God?

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