



## Week 5: Protect Internally

*“Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”  
Nehemiah 5:9a-b (NIV)*

### A. Internal Outcry

*“Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews.” Nehemiah 5:1 (NIV)*

#### 1. Needy people

*“...in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” Nehemiah 5:2b (NIV)*

#### 2. Greedy people

*“You are charging your own people interest!”  
Nehemiah 5:7b (NIV)*

*“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven.” Mark 10:25 (NIV)*

### B. Internal Remedies

*“So I called together a large meeting to deal with them...they kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.” Nehemiah 5:7c; 8c (NIV)*

#### 1. Reform

*“I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards,*

*olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.” Nehemiah 5:10-11 (NIV)*

*“When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, ‘Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’” John 8:7 (NIV)*

#### 2. Relief

##### a. For the poor

*“‘We will give it back’, they said, ‘And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.’” Nehemiah 5:12a (NIV)*

*“The goal is equality, as it is written: ‘The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.’”  
2 Corinthians 8:14c-15 (NIV)*

##### b. For the soul

*“At this the whole assembly said, ‘Amen,’ and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.”  
Nehemiah 5:13c (NIV)*

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1 (NIV)*

### C. Personal Leadership

#### 1. Fear of God, not people

*“Shouldn’t you walk in fear of our God...”  
Nehemiah 5:9a (NIV)*

*“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 (NIV)*

#### 2. Internal confrontation

*“I pondered them in my mind and then accused...”  
Nehemiah 5:7a (NIV)*

Nehemiah did not act in anger within his head, but gave way to the advice in his heart.

#### 3. Immediate confrontation

*“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.” Nehemiah 5:6 (NIV)*

*“‘It is written’, He said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.’” Matthew 21:13 (NIV)*

#### 4. Inspired humility

*“In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.” Nehemiah 5:18b*

### D. How about you?

1. Do you recognize your need for God?
2. What are you doing for the needs of the needy around you?
3. Who do you fear more, the world or God?
4. Do you need to confront someone or something to remedy an issue?

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...  
Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*

**Next Sunday: Praise Humbly** (*Nehemiah 6-8*)

