

Oxford Baptist Church Pastor Robin W. Pifer October 11, 2015 Nehemiah Series: "Rebuilding to Transform" Message Nehemiah 5 – "Grateful: Helping the Poor and the Broken."

... Inside the Wall problems....

The Struggle. (v. 1-5)

- **Starving (v. 1-2)**
- **Broke (v. 3)**
- **Abused (v. 4-5)**

The Response. (v. 6-11) Luke 23:34

Real leaders do not cause more problems they solve them.

- **Understanding and Anger**
 - **Stop Mistreating the Poor.**
 - **Stop being a Bad Example.**
 - **Stop Evil Practices for personal gain.**

"People only have a hard time hearing the truth if they have something to hide."

The Solution. (v. 12-18) Exodus 22:25; Lev 25:35-42

- **Repent, Restore, Restitution 1Tim 4:16**
- **Follow Nehemiah's example. 1Cor 11:1**
- **Be Generous. Proverbs 11:25**
- **Minister to people – the poor and the broken. Luke 4:18-19**

God's Grateful People give generously to resolve the struggles of the poor and the broken.

v. 19 Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.

Life Group and Personal Questions

1. **Discuss the struggles that God's people were facing at the hands of the nobles and officials?**
2. **How did Nehemiah face and solve the problems rather than add to the burden of the people?**
3. **What are modern problems or injustices in our society where Christians can give servant leadership to solve?**
4. **Have you ever experienced spiritual abuse within the walls of the church? What are some examples of spiritual abuse and how this is a bad example to the people outside the church?**
5. **How does Nehemiah confront and call the people to spiritual accountability?**
6. **What is symbolic about Nehemiah praying and shaking out his robe? (v. 13) What does Nehemiah want God to do in this case? How does this impact the people?**
7. **Pastor Robin talked about ministering to people rather than having more programs. How does this mirror the relational ministry of Jesus Christ?**
8. **How does Luke 23:34 impact how we minister to people at all levels of society?**
9. **Generosity is one of the marks of God's grateful people. How can you be generous and care for someone this coming week? Pray for an opportunity to relieve the pressure and refresh someone this week.**
10. **What are some practical ways our church family can have generous ministry to the poor and the broken?**

11. What is the greatest take away for you personally from this message?