

WEEK 3

REBUILD IT

A STUDY OF NEHEMIAH

Pastor Kyle Chamberlain | Oct. 15th, 2023

Fix the Cause

- External structure on the outside is only as good as the person on the inside.

"1Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. 2Some were saying, "We have such large families. We need more food to survive."3Others said, "We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine." 4And others said, "We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes. 5We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it"
(Neh. 5:1-5)

"6When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I said you are hurting your own people by charging them interest" (Neh. 5:6)

- Building new walls won't fix old ways.
- If you don't fix the cause you'll keep finding yourself in the same condition.
- Religion is structure without the Holy Spirit's supply.

Causes that lead to brokenness

1) Living like the world

35" If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. 36Do not take interest or any profit from them, but fear your God, so that they may continue to live among you. 37You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit...39" If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and sell themselves to you, do not make them work as slaves. 40They are to be treated as hired workers or temporary residents among you; they are to work for you until the Year of Jubilee"
(Lev. 25:35-37,39-40)

2) A self focused attitude leads to brokenness.

"8and said: "As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the nations. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!" (Neh. 5:8)



“3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude as Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,..... Therefore God exalted him” (Phil 2:3-7)

3) Keeping score leads to brokenness.

“10I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!” (Neh. 5:10)

“If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; you shall not charge him interest.” (Ex. 22:25)

When Relationships are treated like transactions there's brokenness.

“4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, love keeps no record of wrongs”. (1 Cor. 13:4-5)

Relationships aren't a competition. Relationships are a dance.

How to respond to the cause

“They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.” (Neh. 5:8)

1) Give up defensiveness.

12“We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised.” (Neh. 5:12)

2) Go Public

Turn a private conviction into a public commitment.

3) Go first.

“14for twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. 15But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.” (Neh. 5:14-16)

“19Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.” (Neh. 5:19)

