

## Nehemiah 5 Economic Crisis Lesson 13

Nehemiah faced many difficulties as he faithfully carried out what the Lord had laid on his heart to do. The task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem seemed straightforward and relatively simple, but it had turned into a war zone. Nehemiah commanded the workers, *“Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve as guards by night and workmen by day.’ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.”* Nehemiah 4:22 & 23

### **A Problem is Revealed - Nehemiah 5:1-13**

1. As Nehemiah was busy trying to keep the builders safe and the work moving forward, some men and their wives held a protest rally. Whom were they directing their protest against? (vs. 1)
  
2. What was this protest about? (vs. 2)
  
3. No one would have disagreed with them over that - so what was the real problem?
  - 5:3
  
  - 5:4
  
  - 5:5
  
4. Nehemiah listened to their complaints, outcries and charges. How did he take this news? (vs. 6)
  
5. He said he pondered the information in his mind and then took action. What did he do? (vs. 7)
  - Define the word *“usury”*.

6. In utter exasperation, what did Nehemiah say to them? (vs. 8a & b)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Summarize God's Law regarding this issue as given in Leviticus 25:39-41.
  - Why did the Lord say He was adamant about this? (Leviticus 25:42)
  
  
  
  
  
  - What warning was given with this law? (Leviticus 25:43)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. After hearing the words of Nehemiah and knowing God's Word through Ezra, what did the people have to say? (vs. 8c)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Nehemiah continued his message; what did he add? (vs. 9)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Nehemiah understood both sides of the issue. In fact, he said he and his men were also lending money and grain to the people. What was it that made him so angry? (vs. 10)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. How did Nehemiah propose to solve this problem? (vs. 11)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What was the response to Nehemiah's proposal? (vs. 12a & b)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. How did Nehemiah make sure they would do as they had agreed? (vs. 12c)

14. In true Hebrew fashion, Nehemiah used a symbolic gesture to punctuate his words. What did he do and say? (vs. 13a & b)

- What do you think he meant?

15. The next words are very important. The whole assembly said, “Amen” or so be it! Then what did they do? (vs. 13c)

- Why do you think they did that?

16. Did they follow through on their commitment? (vs. 13d)

**Nehemiah’s Leadership Style - Nehemiah 5:14-19**

17. After recording this crisis in Jerusalem and how he handled it, Nehemiah took a moment to reflect on his leadership style. Using Nehemiah 5:14 & 15:

- What was Nehemiah’s official position while in Judah?
- By whose authority did he hold that position?
- How long did he serve?
- What was unique about Nehemiah as compared to others who had held this position?
- Why did Nehemiah say he was different?

