
PERSEVERING THRU CONFLICTS AND CHALLENGES

A large tree stands on a grassy hill. The left side of the tree is bare and brown, while the right side is lush and green. A path of light leads from the bottom left towards the tree. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-yellow clouds, and several birds are flying in the upper right. The overall scene suggests a transition from a difficult past to a bright future.

NEW BEGINNINGS

SERIES

NEHEMIAH 5

Nehemiah 5:1

**About this time some of the men
and their wives raised a cry of
protest against their fellow Jews.**

Nehemiah 5:2

They were saying, “We have such large families. We need more food to survive.”

Nehemiah 5:3

Others said, “We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine.”

Nehemiah 5:4

And others said, “We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes.

Nehemiah 5:5a

We 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.

Nehemiah 5:5b

We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others.”

Nehemiah 5:6

When I heard their complaints,
I was very angry.

Nehemiah 5:7

After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, “You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!” Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem.

Nehemiah 5:8a

At the meeting I said to them, “We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but you are selling them back into slavery again.

Nehemiah 5:8b

How often must we redeem them?” And they had nothing to say in their defense.

Nehemiah 5:9

Then I pressed further, “What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?”

Nehemiah 5:10

I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.

Nehemiah 5:11

You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.”

Nehemiah 5:12

They replied, “We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say.” Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised.

Nehemiah 5:13a

I shook out the folds of my robe and said, “If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!”

Nehemiah 5:13b

**The whole assembly responded,
“Amen,” and they praised the
Lord. And the people did as
they had promised.**

Nehemiah 5:14

For the entire twelve years that I was governor of Judah—from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of the reign of King Artaxerxes—neither I nor my officials drew on our official food allowance.

Nehemiah 5:15a

The former governors, in contrast, had laid heavy burdens on the people, demanding a daily ration of food and wine, besides forty pieces of silver.

Nehemiah 5:15b

Even their assistants took advantage of the people. But because I feared God, I did not act that way.

Nehemiah 5:16

I also devoted myself to working on the wall and refused to acquire any land. And I required all my servants to spend time working on the wall.

Nehemiah 5:17

**I asked for nothing, even though
I regularly fed 150 Jewish officials
at my table, besides all the
visitors from other lands!**

Nehemiah 5:18a

The provisions I paid for each day included one ox, six choice sheep or goats, and a large number of poultry. And every ten days we needed a large supply of all kinds of wine.

Nehemiah 5:18b

**Yet I refused to claim the
governor's food allowance
because the people already
carried a heavy burden.**

Nehemiah 5:19

Remember, O my God, all that I
have done for these people,
and bless me for it.

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NEW BEGINNINGS
SERIES

NEHEMIAH 5

Sermon Series Recap

If we want to be sure that the new beginning we seek is truly God's will, when it comes to rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God there will always be 4 criteria that must be met.

**New beginnings which require
rebuilding, restoring, and
revitalizing with God require
getting started right.**

**Rebuilding, restoring, and
revitalizing with God requires that
we faithfully execute God
honoring first steps.**

Becoming, being, and building a Holy Spirit led team is what adds fuel to the process of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God and it is what keeps it moving towards a successful completion.

Rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God requires that we empower God's team for victory by letting go of control without letting go of our accountability, passion, and commitment to see the project completed right.

The new beginnings that God offers us where He invites us to rebuild, restore, and revitalize with Him requires that we overcome malicious and persistent opposition.

PERSEVERING THRU CONFLICTS AND CHALLENGES



NEW BEGINNINGS
SERIES

NEHEMIAH 5

Principle #1

When we are in the process of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we must expect and prepare to deal with the 5 f's: fear, fatigue, frustration, fury, and fighting.

Nehemiah 4:7

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious.

Nehemiah 4:8

They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion.

Nehemiah 4:9

But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

Nehemiah 4:10

Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”

Nehemiah 4:11

Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

Nehemiah 4:12

The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!”

Application

Many of us have failed to successfully rebuild, restore, and revitalize with God; because when we are blindsided by the 5 f's, we quit, we fumble away our opportunity, or we run away.

Principle #2

When we are in the process of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God we must understand that obstacles, opposition, conflicts, challenges, and the 5 f's will always be present and will come in waves.

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**About this time some of the men
and their wives raised a cry of
protest against their fellow Jews.**

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They were saying, “We have such large families. We need more food to survive.”

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We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others.”

Nehemiah 5:6

When I heard their complaints,
I was very angry.

Application

We must understand that obstacles, opposition, conflicts, challenges, and the 5 f's will never go away quickly, quietly, or own their own.

Principle #3

When we are in the process of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God how we deal with the 5 f's when they come will greatly contribute to the success or failure of the new beginning God is offering us.

When fear, fatigue, frustration, fury, and fighting make an appearance, they bring with them a loss of perspective. When we allow ourselves to be deceived by the distorted perspectives, failure is not far behind.

Application

When obstacles, opposition, conflicts, challenges, and the 5 f's inevitably arise; do not cut off what can be untied.

**When tensions and conflicts arise
it takes patience, focus,
perseverance, determination, and
dedication to untie the gnarled
knots of twisted relationships and
complex situations.**

Principle #4

When we partner with God to untie the gnarled knots of twisted relationships and complex situations and the 5 f's inevitably arise, there are times that we must recognize, rest, and reflect.

Nehemiah 5:6-7a

**When I heard their complaints,
I was very angry. After thinking
it over...**

Deuteronomy 23:19

Do not charge interest on the loans you make to a fellow Israelite, whether you loan money, or food, or anything else.

Deuteronomy 23:20

You may charge interest to foreigners, but you may not charge interest to Israelites, so that the Lord your God may bless you in everything you do in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

Principle #5

When we partner with God to untie the gnarled knots of twisted relationships and complex situations and the 5 f's inevitably arise, there are times we must boldly take a stand.

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Nehemiah 5:9

Then I pressed further, “What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?”

Principle #6

When we partner with God to untie the gnarled knots of twisted relationships and complex situations and the 5 f's inevitably arise, we must always lead by example.

Nehemiah 5:10

I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.

Nehemiah 5:11

You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.”

Nehemiah 5:12

They replied, “We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say.” Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised.

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I shook out the folds of my robe and said, “If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!”

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**The whole assembly responded,
“Amen,” and they praised the
Lord. And the people did as
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governor's food allowance
because the people already
carried a heavy burden.**

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and bless me for it.

Principle #7

When we partner with God to untie the gnarled knots of twisted relationships and complex situations and the 5 f's inevitably arise, we must always build bridges towards reconciliation.

Nehemiah 5:10

I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.

Nehemiah 5:11

You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.”

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