

Ezra, Haggai, Esther and Nehemiah

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Nehemiah 5

Day 1	Nehemiah 5:1-5
Day 2	Nehemiah 5:6-7
Day 3	Nehemiah 5:8-11
Day 4	Nehemiah 5:12-13
Day 5	Nehemiah 5:14-19

LESSON SEVENTEEN

1 Look in His Word

Feel free to underline, circle or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

Nehemiah 5:1-5

¹ Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their Jewish brothers.

² Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”

³ Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.”

⁴ Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.

⁵ Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our countrymen and though our sons are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

2 List the Facts

What does the passage say? Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious, outstanding facts. Be literal as you answer.

Example:

(5:1) The men and wives raised an outcry against their Jewish brothers.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

What does the passage mean? What lessons can be learned from these facts? Be spiritual as you answer.

Example:

(5:1) Christians must not mistreat each other.

4 Listen to His Voice

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from step 3 in the form of a question. Be personal as you answer.

Example:

(5:1) In what way have I mistreated my Christian sisters?

LESSON SEVENTEEN

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Nehemiah 5:6-7

⁶ When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.

⁷ I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are exacting usury from your own countrymen!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them

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Learn from the Lessons

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Listen to His Voice

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Nehemiah 5:8-11

⁸ and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our Jewish brothers who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your brothers, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

⁹ So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”

¹⁰ I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop!

¹¹ Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the usury you are charging them—the hundredth part of the money, grain, new wine and oil.”

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Learn from the Lessons

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Listen to His Voice

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Nehemiah 5:12-13

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.

¹³ I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep this promise. So may such a man be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

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Learn from the Lessons

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Listen to His Voice

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Nehemiah 5:14-19

¹⁴ Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year-twelve years-neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor.

¹⁵ But 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.

¹⁶ Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.

¹⁷ Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations.

¹⁸ Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

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

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3

Learn from the Lessons

4

Listen to His Voice

5

Live in Response

How will you respond? Pinpoint what God is saying to you from this passage. Write down today's date and what you will do now about what He has said.

NOTES