

Nehemiah's Challenge

Nehemiah 5.1-13

Introduction:

I. Ungodly distractions

- A. Absence of D_____
- B. Absence of R_____ for God

II. Godly responses

- A. Righteous A_____
- B. Honest C_____
- C. Public R_____

III. Godly commitment

- A. R_____ for God
 - B. D_____ to community
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- 1. B_____ S_____
 - 2. F_____ P_____
 - 3. P_____ G_____
 - 4. J_____ S_____

Conclusion:

Questions for reflection or small group discussion

- I ask again, what is your calling for this season of your life?
- How have you been tempted to distraction away from this calling?
- Are there personal relationships you have that make your distractions away from your calling more likely?
- On the other hand what new friendships might help you remain more focused and to achieve your calling with Christ Jesus?
- Can you make a list of disciplines that might help you to avoid the distractions that take you away from your calling?
- How might our steps on the discipleship pathway be helpful?

Discipleship pathway: *worship regularly; join a small group; serve with your spiritual gift; share your faith*

- How does money create distractions in our lives and divide the Christian community, keeping us from fulfilling God's mission?
- Can you give some examples of how the poor have been systematically kept poor in our culture and time?
- How might the OT law about usury and jubilee be applied to our time and culture?
- How could we make a covenant to relieve financial hardship in our day in such a way that would advance the Good News?
- Is it possible that our church could be distracted from fulfilling our succession plan due to financial issues?
- Review the four principles of biblical stewardship and write a sentence that begins *"To achieve obedience to biblical stewardship, I resolve to"*