

Building with Compassion – Life Mission

Nehemiah 5

21st February 2016 – Duncan Murray

1. Tough Times: Are a Part of Every Life

Nehemiah 5:1-2 (NLT) 1 About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. 2 They were saying, “We have such large families. We need more food to survive.”

2. Tough Times: Demand Great Sacrifice

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NLT) 1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. 2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

3. Tough Times: Promote Selfish Actions

Nehemiah 5:6-7 (NLT) 6 When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. 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.

4. The Fear of God: Trumps Tough Times

Nehemiah 5:9-11 (NLT) 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? 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. 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.”

5. The Fear of God: Leads to a Good Example

Nehemiah 5:14 (NLT) 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.

6. The Remarkable thing about fearing God

What is God challenging me ?