



RISE UP AND BUILD

A STUDY IN NEHEMIAH

Exposing the Sin of Entitlement

Nehemiah 5

God's people fight the temptation to demand their rights by sacrificial living that is submitted to God's will and motivated by the life and death of Jesus.



Sacrifice for Community-v.1-5

- **Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. Nehemiah 5:1, ESV**
- **Rather than using their wealth to relieve suffering, the rich are behaving like sleazy loan sharks!**
- **Do you meet needs? Or, do you take advantage of neediness?**



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

- I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, “You are exacting interest, each from his brother.” And I held a great assembly against them
Nehemiah 5:6–7, ESV
- So I said, “The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God...?
Nehemiah 5:9, ESV



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him...Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God...You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit. Leviticus 25:35–37, ESV

See also Exodus 22:25 and Deuteronomy 23:19-20



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD;

Psalm 24:1, CSB



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Proverbs 14:31, ESV



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share... 1 Timothy 6:17–18, CSB



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

- **Do you think about your money from God's perspective?**
- **Have you considered the impact that your earning, spending, and saving has on you *and* on those around you?**
- **Do your choices hinder or promote God's work?**



Submit to God's Word-v.9-15

Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. Philippians 2:5–8, CSB

