

Week 5 Rise and Rebuild: Facing Opposition From Within

As you read through Nehemiah, we invite you begin the week with the Psalm. Read it and pray through it. Praying Scripture gives shape and meaning to our prayers. It enables us to get God's word in us and transform us. Each day, pray the Psalm alongside the Nehemiah reading for the day.

Scriptures:

Day 21 Psalm 29

Day 22 Nehemiah 6:1-19

Day 23 Nehemiah 7:1-45

Day 24 Nehemiah 7:46-73

Day 25 Nehemiah 8

Sermon Discussion Questions: Nehemiah 5:1-19

- For what reasons do we turn a blind eye to the poverty and oppression around us?
- How are the effects of the oppression in Nehemiah 5 different from the effects of the oppression by Sanballat and Tobiah in Nehemiah 4?
- Tangibly involving ourselves for the sake of justice is a biblical command. What part is God asking you to play? What part is God asking Trinity play?
- What might God be asking us to lay down for the sake of our struggling brothers and sisters?
- Why do you think Nehemiah's compulsion to complete the wall was more important to him than securing a huge salary along with wine and food allotment?
- How goes it with our witness as God's people to the community, region and broader world concerning the poor and oppressed?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- In what ways have you exercised a greedy spirit and misused or mistreated others for personal gain?
- How has the wound from a brother or sister (loved one or trusted friend) uniquely hurt you?
- How might you be contributing to the oppression of brothers and sisters around you and/or around the world?
- In likeness with Nehemiah, is God asking you to lay down an entitlement in a situation where you are justified to hold into it? What do you see as the greater purpose of relinquishing this right?
- What prevents you from using your power, influence, and resources (whatever that may look like) to stand up for and stand in the gap for brothers and sisters?
- As God put it in Nehemiah's heart to rebuild, what has God put in your heart concerning His people? What most distracts you from doing the things God has put in your heart?

Rise and Rebuild

- Forgive a debt someone owes you, whether a financial, emotional, or mental debt.
- Invite someone or somebodies for a meal to sit around your table and yes, provide for them physically.
- Give up something this week and go without. When you feel the loss, let it remind you to pray for the impoverished and oppressed and reach out to do something tangible to alleviate the need.