

Nehemiah Lesson 7

Building Ministry Through Internal Opposition

Day 1 Read Nehemiah 5:1-19 Listen and Discern

1. Christ uses a phrase in Mark 3:25, "**A kingdom (house) divided against itself cannot stand.**" Explain this principle as it relates to internal opposition. _____

2. Read Nehemiah 5:1-5. Relate what has happened to these returned exiles in a physical sense. _____

3. The principles violated by the nobles are listed in Leviticus 25:35-41, but what is the spiritual problem here? What is the root sin? _____

4. Relate this to the church today. Give a practical example of how, in order to deal with internal opposition, we must discern the root problem rather than just listen to the surface issue. _____

Day 2 Read Nehemiah 5:1-19 Deal with Sin Head On

1. Nehemiah realizes the deliberate, unrepentant sin of the nobles against their own brothers and he is "**very angry**". How is this anger different than Sanballat's in chapter 4, verse 1? _____

2. Is it right to get angry? What is Nehemiah essentially saying if he does not get angry? _____

3. Explain the following statement, "**Our view of sin is directly related to our understanding of God's holiness.**" If Nehemiah doesn't get angry, what does he not understand, or care about? _____

Day 3 Read Nehemiah 5:1-19 Deal with Sin Head On

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5. What sin were the Corinthians not dealing with? What was their attitude? Were they angry? _____

2. What are the consequences to the family if they ignore it? (Remember the snake illustration) (1 Cor 4:6) _____

3. In order for righteous anger to not become sin, it must be handled properly. Explain the process. (Matt 18:15-18) _____

4. Have you been unwilling to obey Matthew 18? What are you saying about your love for your brother? ... for the body?for God? _____

Day 4 Read Nehemiah 5:1-19 Lead by Example

1. In order for us to effectively confront one another with sin, we need to first look at ourselves. (Gal 6:1) What gave Nehemiah the ability to live righteously and love the body deeply? (Neh 5:15) _____

2. We all have been guilty of contributing to internal opposition at one time or another. How has seeing someone lead by example caused you to repent of the sin of selfishness? _____

3. Many of the things that Nehemiah did in verses 14 through 16 were simple, practical gifts of his time, talent and treasure. In which one of these areas are you the strongest? In what area could you improve? Give an example. _____

"The towel is a symbol of service, not a crown."

- Philip Brown, Newry, N. Ireland